

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On the 17th May, 1901, at Mohkanshan, the wife of the Rev. A. KENNEDY, of a son.
On the 26th May, at Shameen, Canton, the wife of F. A. BRÜCKELMANN, of a son.
On the 26th May, at Malowchow Station, Lappa, the wife of R. J. WHITE, I.M.C., of a son.
On the 27th May, at "Lustleigh," Peak, the wife of E. F. STOVELL, of a daughter.
On the 29th May, at Stolzenfels, Peak, the wife of HANS SCHUBERT, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 15th May, at St. Andrew's Church, Shiba, Tokyo, by the Rev. A. F. King, M.A., WILLIAM BENJAMIN, eldest son of W. B. MASON, of Tokyo, to ADA, youngest daughter of J. WINSTANLEY, of Yokohama.
On the 25th May, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., JOHN NIGHTINGALE, Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, Wenchow, to ELLA CORA SAW, of Pittsburg, Pa., U.S.A.

On the 28th May, at St. John's Cathedral, by the Rev. F. T. Johnston, RALPH LITTMANN to DAISY ETHEL MOLLER, both of Shanghai.

DEATHS.

On the 18th May, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Range Road, Shanghai, Lieut.-Col. E. M. DAMLA, I.M.S.
On the 20th May, 1901, at Pagoda Anchorage, ELIZABETH CHARLOTTE, the wife of H. A. MCINNES (I.M.C.), aged 47 years.
On the 27th May, 1901, at Shanghai General Hospital, CARLOS C. ENCARNACAO, of Hankow, aged 36 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 25th April arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Doric*, on the 24th May (31 days); the Canadian mail of the 6th May arrived, per C. P. R. steamer *Empress of China*, on the 28th May (22 days); the German mail of the 17th April arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Sachsen*, on the 29th May (42 days); and the American mail of the 3rd May arrived, per T. K. K. steamer *Nippon Maru*, on the 31st May (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A plague of locusts in Anhwei Province is causing much unrest.

Li Hung-chang has presented a Note to the Ministers at Peking, by which China agrees to pay 450,000,000 taels, with 4 per cent. interest.

A *Mainichi* telegram says that Min Yei-kwan of the Korean War Department ordered from France 25 quick-firing field-guns some time ago, which are to be delivered shortly.

Admiral Sir E. H. Seymour, G.C.B., is expected at Woosung in the *Alacrity* on the 1st inst. He will probably go straight up the river to pay a farewell visit to the Viceroy, and then call in at Shanghai on his way back.

According to the Japanese papers, Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Minister to Seoul, issued a notice on the 16th inst., that Jihukpo, to the west of Masampo, will be used as a Japanese concession. The negotiations respecting a site for the concession are reported settled.

Vice-Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, the new Commander-in-Chief of the British naval force in China, with his staff, proceeded by the White Star steamer *Oceanic* from Liverpool on May 8th, and was to travel by the Canadian Pacific Railway and steamer, via Vancouver and Japan, to take over the duties of his command.

The people of Moji are endeavouring to secure the establishment of the new British Consulate on their side of the Shimonoseki Straits. The *Kobe Chronicle* understands that a deputation from Moji has arrived in Kobe, and will proceed to Yokohama and Tokyo to press the superior claims of their town as the site of the Consulate.

The consent of the Throne has been obtained by the Plenipotentiaries to change the name of the Tsungli Yamén into "Waiwupu" or Board of Foreign Affairs. The building, according to the *N.-C. Daily News* Peking correspondent, has been turned over to the Chinese, and it was intended to open this new Board on or about the 25th ult.

The insurgent generals, Mascardo and Lacuna, having surrendered in the Philippines, the U.S. Governor-General has signalled the fact by the release of 500 prisoners. General Malvar, on the other hand, has refused the amnesty and declared himself President in succession to Aguinaldo. He has about 2,000 men under his immediate orders. General Cailles has agreed to surrender.

The four German battleships at Woosung, the *Brandenburg*, *Kurfürst Friedrich Wilhelm*, *Weissenburg*, and *Wörth*, received orders on Saturday last to be prepared to leave for home on the 31st ult., but later orders came by which their departure was delayed for a few days. It is understood, the *N.-C. Daily News* says, that they will shortly be a general reduction of the foreign garrison at Shanghai.

H.M. storeship *Humber*, which arrived in the harbour on the 29th inst. from Weihaiwei and Chemulpo, reports that all was quiet at the latter place. The expedition from Weihaiwei in connection with the Korean trouble, although ready to start, had not been despatched when the *Humber* left on the 23rd inst. There were then at Chemulpo H.M. cruisers *Astraea* and *Isis*. Affairs at Seoul were also quiet, and altogether, although cordial relations did not exist, the aspect of affairs generally was encouraging.

Russia has agreed to the British proposal for a mixed Commission; the ministers at Peking are said unanimously to desire later Commission to consist of the heads of foreign banks.

It is stated, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, that Viceroy Chang Chih-tung is very desirous of either suppressing or gagging the native Press especially in Shanghai. The Viceroy states that these newspapers published a lot of rumours and unreliable news and that the recent operations of the French and German troops on the Shansi-Chihli borders were really due to these unreliable reports. It is said that the Mixed Court magistrate at Shanghai has sent a circular letter to the various local vernacular newspapers informing them of Viceroy Chang's intentions regarding them.

The *New Press* of the 27th ult. says:—A Nanking despatch to hand states that it was currently rumoured among the high official circles there to the effect that it is the intention of the Powers to place Prince Chun (the brother of the Emperor) upon the Throne, in the event of His Majesty the Emperor Kwang Hsu not going back to Peking within the coming 5th moon (June), and that they have decided to ask their Excellencies Liu Kung-yi, Chang Chi Tung, and Tao Mu to act as Imperial Regents. Upon hearing of this, Viceroy Liu is said to have been much upset, and as a result to have wired to the Court at Hsianfu praying the Emperor to fix a date to depart for Peking without delay.

A Japanese vernacular paper states that the affray which took place at Nagasaki between British and French marines in April last, in which a British bluejacket was killed, has come up as a diplomatic question. The British minister to Tokyo addressed an official note to the Foreign Department and asked the Japanese authorities why the French cruiser *Neve* was allowed to leave before due search for the man responsible for the death of the British bluejacket was instituted. The Foreign Department referred to the Nagasaki Court officials, who looked after the case, and the Chief Public Procurator of the Court replied that the detention of a foreign warship was not within his powers, but that the necessary enquiries as to the offender were duly carried out. Whether the Foreign Department replied to the British Minister and whether the latter was satisfied with the reply is not stated in the Japanese press.

With reference to the rumour that unless the Emperor returns speedily to Peking there is an intention to place the Empire under the control of four high Chinese officials, thereby, as it were, partitioning China amongst her own sons and not amongst the Foreign Powers, the following report (says the *N. C. Daily News*) is now circulating amongst the local mandarins:—(1) The Liangkang and Min-Ché provinces to be under the Viceroy Liu of Nanking; (2) Hunan, Hupeh, and Szechuen to be under the Viceroy Chang of Wuchang; (3) Kwangtung, Kwangai, Yunnan, and Kweichau under Viceroy T'ao of Canton; (4) Shantung, Shansi, Southern Shensi, Honan, and Chihli under Governor Yuan of Chinan. Finally, Northern Shensi, Kansu, Chinese Turkestan, Tibet, Mongolia (Inner and Outer), and Manchuria to be under the Emperor (the Empress Dowager and her Reactionaries, of course), "who is to be given the liberty of doing whatever His Majesty may be pleased to command in the matter."

THE GOVERNMENT OF HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 27th May.)

Although it may be conceded that, in his further criticism of the administration of public affairs in this Colony, "Scrutator" has pitched the key rather high in some directions, yet in the main we are confident he has expressed the views of the vast majority of the community. In asserting this, we have no desire to join in any wild accusations against the Government or to take part in any sweeping condemnation of the form of administration under which we live. There are two sides to every question, and it would be crassest folly to refuse to acknowledge the good points in a system because it is open to criticism on others. We are quite ready to admit that we are governed with every desire on the part of the officials in Downing Street to provide for all the just wants of the Colony; and if intentions could count for anything we should probably have little to complain of. The residents are on the whole lightly taxed; those of British origin are immune from the inquisitorial income tax, while those of foreign derivation are not, as in some other countries, required to pay a poll tax. All residents, of whatever nationality, can come and go unquestioned, unhampered, unafraid. No passports are demanded; no customs officers make landing or departure an ordeal to passengers. No obstructions are placed in the way of any legitimate trade; no privileges are accorded to any class or race. Land can be acquired as freely by aliens as by His Majesty's subjects, and justice is administered with absolute impartiality in all the Courts of the Colony. Under this just and liberal rule, wisely designed to encourage and develop trade, a mighty commerce has, as the result, grown up: the port has become the greatest in Asia and one of the first in point of tonnage, and in many other respects, in the world. It would be churlish and ungrateful in the extreme to omit to give credit to our rulers for these great, these magnificent results. We are penetrated by a sense of our deep obligations to the tenacity and foresight of the Governments that, having put their hands to the plough in the early days, refused to be guided by the pessimistic forebodings of Mr. MONTGOMERY MARTIN, and persevered in their policy until success beyond all imagination rewarded their faith in unrestricted trade and liberal measures.

Having said so much, in vindication of our position, we turn to the situation which has in later days developed, and propose again briefly to discuss the new points raised by "Scrutator" in his effort to arouse public opinion on the manner in which affairs municipal have been allowed to drift. We have already referred at some length to the crying evils of the system of drainage, which for our sins has been thrust upon us by sciolists, who appear to have been unable to grasp the great salient fact that a system suitable to the wants of a civilised people in a temperate climate is not necessarily adapted to a semi-civilised race in a semi-tropical country. Whether this system should be entirely superseded, or whether it can be so modified as to neutralise its dangers, in the sense indicated by our correspondent "T." is a question for experts on the one hand and the Treasury on the other. But that something must be done and a large outlay incurred, to rectify the mistakes of the past, is a fact that surely no Government can refuse to recognise. The utter inadequacy

of the Sanitary staff to grapple with the herculean task of reforming the sanitary condition of the city of Victoria has been demonstrated to the hilt by "Scrutator." A staff consisting of a medical officer, a sanitary surveyor, and a score of inspectors of nuisances could at best, even in a temperate climate, only touch the fringe of their real work; but in this huge aggregation of slums they are simply set to essay the impossible. Much credit is due to Dr. CLARK for the cheerful energy with which he daily takes up his Sisyphean task; but it is surely time that the citizens of Victoria came to his relief, and alleviated the hopelessness of his efforts. The ratepayers do not, we feel sure, grudge the money for providing a staff competent to deal with the sanitation of the city. Much the same may be said for the medical staff. It is undermanned and underpaid; and proper inspection of arrivals is alike impracticable and unthought of. Yet there is no reason, Dr. BELL's opinion notwithstanding, why some sort of supervision should not be exercised over arrivals. As we have pointed out, it would be difficult, and perhaps impossible, to exclude all persons suffering from or sickening for plague from entering the Colony, but some tentative efforts might be made in this direction. In the matter of overcrowding and the cognate one of insanitary dwellings, something has been done by the passage of the Building Ordinance, but much more might have been effected if the Sanitary staff had been equal to the work and the accumulated filth and refuse removed and noxious nuisances abated. With regard to the sale of articles unfit for human food, this is a matter that presents no difficulties, always provided the Sanitary officials have the time to exercise proper supervision over the markets and storekeepers. This is a duty, we think, that should devolve on them, and not on the police, few of whom possess the requisite knowledge to examine and analyse the articles. The control and regulation of the chair and jinrickisha traffic, on the other hand, is obviously the work of the police; and, either for want of men or of stringency in their instructions, it is very ineffectively carried out. All that "Scrutator" says under this head is capable of most undeniable proof. The coolies engaged in this traffic are without doubt about the most insolent, ill-behaved, and rascally set of scoundrels that could be found in any city in any quarter of the globe, and require very stern treatment to keep them in hand. It is a common trick on their part to refuse fares, if they perceive the chance of securing a griffin to victimise; it is a commoner one still to substitute a base coin for that paid by their fare, and impudently demand another in its place; and they almost invariably attempt extortion from women if unaccompanied by male friends. The carrying coolies are not many degrees less objectionable, for they jostle and collide with passengers, whom they, being dirty and unsavoury, frequently compel to yield the pavement to them and their burdens. In no other part of the East would such conduct be tolerated for a moment, but in Victoria, where it is unlawful to use the argument of the stick, and the guardian of the peace apparently has too much to do to regulate the sidewalks, walking in the streets is provocative of misery to ladies and of strong language from their lords. Large discretion and a thin cane in the hands of a European constable would no doubt go far to cure this evil; it is not one to be dealt with by fine or imprisonment.

The question of education is one apart from that of municipal matters, and we do

not propose to deal with it here. But "Scrutator" is amply justified in referring to the Public Buildings of the Colony in disparaging terms. There is hardly a respectable-looking block of Government buildings to be found on the island. The Post Office is adapted to the needs of a town of 5,000 to 10,000 inhabitants, and would be a most indifferent specimen of architecture in a village. Representations on the subject of the miserable accommodation and the inadequate staff of the Post Office have been made to the Government by the Chamber of Commerce and by the Press, and in deference thereto the accommodation has been enlarged recently; but the staff remains short of the requirements, and has lately been still further denuded by the transfer of one of the principal clerks to Shanghai as Acting Postmaster. We believe it is intended to proceed with the contemplated new Post Office almost immediately, and we trust this will prove to be the fact. Why, however, the staff should go undermanned is incomprehensible while there are unattached cadets available as temporary assistants. The Harbour Office is simply a disgrace to the port, and ought not to remain in existence an hour longer than necessary. The Law Courts are most wretchedly housed, and are wholly unsuited for the purpose, while architecturally they are a standing reproach to the Colony. The foundations of the proposed new Law Courts are in course of being piled, but at the present rate of progress it will be many years before the capstone of the central dome will crown the edifice. To the Government, as to the typical Chinaman, time is of no importance, and in its vocabulary there is no such word as hasten. It has been decided to take down the present Clock Tower and re-erect it at the head of Blake Pier, both as a measure to secure a shelter to passengers and to remove an existing eyesore and obstruction. But it would be interesting to know about what date this improvement will be effected. The Government is miserably lacking in initiative. It was left to the fertile brain of a resident to think out the scheme for the redemption of the foreshore; and if the continuity of the great arteries from west to east is ever secured, as now seems probable, it will be due to the same calculating mind. In the matter of municipal administration the Government has been tried and found wanting. It has not kept pace with the times; it has not shown adaptability; it has frittered away money uselessly in some directions; it has made the Colony suffer severely in others from its imprudent parsimony. The British community are justified in believing that a Municipality could not do worse, if it did not do better, and they evidently want to try the experiment. We are not too sanguine of its unqualified success, because, as we have said before, there seems a dearth of experienced men who could afford to give sufficient time to the work; but we are open to conviction. At any rate, no harm could result from an attempt to take the sense of the community on the subject, and we therefore propose that a public meeting be held to consider the best means for making representations to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in favour of the establishment of a Municipal Council for the city of Victoria.

The Provincial Treasurer of Chibli, says the Peking correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*, has been ordered to send an enormous sum towards the expenses incurred by the return of the Court: also to raise a capitation tax of three cents a month.

APPROACHING RETURN OF THE COURT.

(Daily Press, 28th May.)

If we can believe the reports of the past two days with regard to the Imperial Court, the situation which has endured for so long seems at last to be coming to an end. Many months ago we were told that it was quite impossible for the Court to remain at Hsianfu and that that the famine in Shensi must infallibly drive the Imperial family and retinue either to Peking or else into Szechuen. But the predictions have been falsified. It is true that from native sources we have learnt that the Imperial table has been reduced to ten dishes in place of the usual hundred; but still the Empress Dowager managed to hold out, though reported to be very "morose." The unfortunate Emperor, of course, had no voice in the matter. Now, however, our Shanghai correspondent speaks of the first certain indication of the Court's return to Peking given in the order to the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company to forward the tribute rice to Tientsin—for transmission to the capital. This order, if issued with the consent of whoever guides the Imperial mind now, cannot be taken otherwise than as a proof that a speedy return of the Emperor to Peking is contemplated. The proposal attributed to WANG WEN-SHAO, that His Majesty's court return by way of Nanking and Shanghai is certainly original, not to say revolutionary, and it can hardly be wondered that the irascible Empress Dowager should be moved to fury by it. The chief point, however, is that the Emperor shall get to Peking with the least possible delay and end an intolerable situation by the only guarantee which can be given of a new era for China.

The reactionaries who formerly ruled the Court, through the Empress Dowager, are now scattered far. The Russian consular advices reported by Count von WALTERSEE to his Government make the situation of the two most prominent survivors far less formidable than has been imagined. General TUNG FU-SHANG's forces in Kansu are stated to be but few, and he is closely watched, by Imperial troops apparently. Prince TUAN, instead of being at the head of a considerable body of troops, is said to have only ten followers with him in Mongolia. It is to be hoped that these advices are correct. The presence of an army of men attached to either of these formerly powerful officials in Kansu or Mongolia would be a very grave element in the situation. If they are merely powerless fugitives, the outlook after the Emperor's return to Peking is far brighter. As friendless outlaws they can be disregarded entirely, and the old and corrupt clique, which misgoverned China for years and brought her to the greatest depth of degradation she has ever known, has no longer a rallying-point.

That was a very handsome report of the O'German's on the S.V.C., says the writer of "Topics for the Times" in the *Shanghai Mercury*, and I believe for once thoroughly deserved. The Corps is probably more efficient to-day than ever it was. But it still has its little weaknesses. Only a fraction of the men can hit a hay-stack, and we have for years had to play second (or third) fiddle to Hongkong and Singapore. Some of the police can shoot, and the new Captain Superintendent is not the worst amongst them. But with the precision of the present weapons a hundred at 200, 500, and 600 ought not to be uncommon, and probably would not be if better "sights" were supplied to the rifles. I hear that those at present in use are almost as good as those of the Snider of thirty years ago!

JAPAN, RUSSIA, AND THE TELEGRAPH.

(Daily Press, 29th May.)

The critical position of affairs with regard to Corea, it is reported, is leading Japan to take stock of her telegraphic communications with the outside world. Her only direct cable with Europe is by way of Gutzlaff, and this cable is in the hands of the Great Northern Telegraph Company. The great Northern is, however, to all intents a Russian Company, being dominated by that Power; and as the present position of affairs, especially with regard to Corea, is not of the most friendly nature, Japan, as is her right, is desirous of acquiring that line—a request naturally objected to by Russia. Russia has, in fact, been using that line so long in her own interests that she has come to regard it as her own private property, and, there is little doubt, has been placing obstructions in the way of her neighbour. It is said that the real object of her threat to reinforce her fleet in Eastern waters is not unconnected with this question of the cable; and as usual she has succeeded in persuading her humble vassal France to open the way for her. The question of Post Offices in Turkey is one that has come opportunely for the purpose. If the presence of these Post Offices be half as great a nuisance in Turkey as in China, we confess that our sympathies are altogether on the side of the Porte; and we certainly would regard it as far more consonant with the interests of civilisation that the abnormal state of affairs should be superseded as soon as possible. When we find then France threatening to force the Dardanelles in the interests of this relic of barbarism, we fear we must go beyond the mere question of a post-office or two, and look to some deeper inspiring cause. It is by no means the first time that France has acted the cat's paw for her big neighbour, and perhaps the true reason is the desire to give her friend the opportunity of withdrawing his fleet from the closed waters of the Black Sea. At all events the coincidence of the artificial troubles at Constantinople (now apparently at an end) with the aggressive aims of Russia in Corea is remarkable, and we are justified with our experience of the methods of both nations in attributing it to deeper motives than either would like to confess openly.

MANCHURIA.

(Daily Press, 1st June.)

Recently *L'Echo de Chine* has been discoursing on the mineral wealth of Manchuria, and has taken occasion to call attention to the known extent of the gold fields in that country. Russia for the last three years has been diligently exploring the mineral products of the region; and one of the clauses which she put into the intended convention with China contained the stipulation that Russia alone was to have the right of acquiring mining rights in that extensive province. Paralysed by the indifference and vacillation of one British Government after another, for the moment the British capitalist looks with suspicion on everything in China, and the state of uncertainty has recently been so aggravated that already there is found a difficulty in carrying through those undertakings already negotiated. Under these circumstances it is not to be wondered at that the wealth of Manchuria, as far as the British capitalist is concerned, has up to this remained a sealed letter. If, however, the British capitalists have been careless, or overcautious, the Russian has been in the field and has

acquired a very practical knowledge of the land. It has long been known that the Tumen River, draining the northern frontier of Corea, contains in its sands a good deal of gold, and in a small way the gold deposits in the islands in the adjoining bay of Peter the Great have been worked; but as the Russian Government has always been jealous of any regular private association being formed for the working of the precious metals, but little has as yet appeared on the surface. Sufficient is, however, known to indicate that the great mountain chain, which from Possiet Bay forms the division between Corea and Manchuria, and which stretches into the old Liao-si, contains abundant supplies of gold. The rocks of which the range is composed are mainly Archean in structure, and from their debris have come the numerous gold deposits of northern Corea, which—even with the barbarous style of working adopted by the Coreans result annually into a large quantity of gold being imported from these districts into China and Japan. These gold-bearing rocks extend westerly along the Great Wall at least as far as the longitude of Peking, and in all the valleys descending from the Mongolian plateau are found gold-bearing deposits, which have long been clandestinely worked by the inhabitants of the borderlands. The jealousy of the Manchurian Government at Peking working on the superstitions of the people has been successful throughout the whole of the Empire in suppressing all mining industry, so that China from being a mineral exporting country has under the misgovernment of her present rulers become dependent for her supplies of the metals, precious and otherwise, on foreign imports. Such was not always the case, and along this very extensive tract of country there are many localities with remains of very extensive mining operations, which seem to have been vigorously conducted even as late as the times of the later Mings. Even more effective than the direct action of the Government in forbidding the working of the mines on any practical scale has been its indirect action in setting up a huge bureaucracy whose private speculations are far more effective in repressing industry than the legal prohibition, which after all is a thing that in China can at all times be surmounted by a little judicious palmistry. Mining on any productive scale, however, requires the expenditure of capital in plant and permanent works, and these afford too tempting a bait to the official bureaucracy to be neglected. The central government which, since at least the Manchu occupation, never has affected any control over its provincial satraps, is both unable and unwilling to interfere with the internal administration, and leaves all details of finance and administration to the official on the spot; while the system of short tenure, coupled with the rule that no official can hold office in his own country, compels each occupant to make as much out of it as possible during his term of occupancy. Unfortunately the development of a practical mining scheme occupies more time than the tenure of office of the individual in office. He sees capital being daily expended under his eyes; but from all this he derives no benefit, while he has to meet the at all times heavy engagements under which he was appointed. To a man under these circumstances the thought that to his successor, not himself, will come the profit is tantalising in the extreme; and this alone, were there no other cause, would suffice to make him an enemy. Now there is no doubt that for this mineral wealth lying next to her own territory Russia in her

heart of hearts is hankering; she sees the effects of the discovery of gold in the present position of Australia, and the Pacific coast of the United States, and sees visions of similar wealth pouring in on herself, could she only get a grasp over this wealthy district. Russia for the last three years has been exploring quietly but carefully the mineral resources of the whole of this district, and has made up her mind as to its wealth in the precious metals. This she has been characteristically keeping in the background, while the British government on its side has been as carefully discouraging exploration. There is no doubt, however, that the entire district is not only rich in metals, but is likely to prove one of the great, if not the greatest, gold-producing districts on the face of the earth. There is really no geographical limit between these districts and China proper. Though nominally subject to China, China during the last two thousand years, has been more frequently the inferior than the dominant power. Some two and a half centuries during the HAN, less than two hundred years during the T'ANG, and a couple of hundred during the earlier SUNG, with, of course, the commencement of the MING, have been the only periods during which China as a power really exercised control over the regions. For the rest of the time she has been mainly dominated by them. The Power in fact that held Mongolia or Manchuria has generally dominated the rich plains of China proper; and in succession Turks, Kitans, Nuchens and Manchus have been the rulers of North China rather than its own original settlers. Still at times the fact that the Chinese power when it had the opportunity of regenerating itself, has been able to reassert itself is the lesson we have to learn from history. There is no reason why a race that has the sense to preserve itself from the enervating influence of women and eunuchs should not continue to flourish as at the beginning. If his friends, instead of fastening on him the yoke of the eunuchs and their associates, were to assist the young Emperor in his efforts to get rid of the degraded crew by whom he is surrounded, and permit him to throw himself on the good offices of his people at large, the cause of progress and civilisation, and the integrity of the Empire would be far more effectually helped than by the present purposeless conduct of the allies in North China.

VILLAGE SANITATION.

(Daily Press, 29th May.)

On the 9th November last the Medical Officer of Health proposed at a meeting of the Sanitary Board that the following draft Limewashing Bye-law be made under subsection 4 of section 13 of Ordinance No. 24 of 1887:—"Any house, or part of a house, 'in the villages of Quarry Bay, Shauiwan, Stanley, Aberdeen and Aplichau, which is 'occupied by members of more than one 'family, shall (unless specially exempted 'by the Sanitary Board) be cleansed and 'limewashed throughout by the owner, to 'the satisfaction of the said Board, not less 'than twice every year, namely, during the 'months of May and June and of November 'and December." Dr. CLARK pointed out that some time ago a Bye-law was made on this subject, covering the whole Colony; subsequently another Bye-law was made, specifying certain months when limewashing was to be carried out, and at that time by some oversight the villages were left out altogether. The proposed new Bye-law was to get rid of the existing obstacles to having limewashing carried out. A

discussion followed among the members of the Board. The Captain Superintendent of Police stated that he saw no reason for extending limewashing to these villages, or, if to these, why not to every other village in Hongkong and Kowloon. He was not aware of any plague in these villages; they had indeed been singularly free from it. Finally he pointed to the expense involved. The two Chinese members of the Board made appeals *ad misericordiam*; the poor villagers could not afford to limewash. Dr. BELL ridiculed limewashing, and said that "the time for these operations would never come." The President supported Dr. CLARK, and Mr. OSBORNE and Major BROWN spoke strongly on his side. The last-named justly remarked that the Board had been told that the houses in question were filthy, and now they were asked that they should not be cleansed. On a vote being taken, the motion of the Medical Officer of Health was carried by five to four. On the 11th March the new Bye-law came up for approval before the Legislative Council, the Director of Public Works bringing it forward. The two Chinese Members of the Council, however, were not present at the time, and it was therefore agreed to postpone the discussion until the next meeting, three days later. On this occasion Dr. HO KAI vigorously assailed the proposal. He did not believe limewashing absolutely necessary to enable people to keep their houses clean. In fact he thought it would make the houses look more uncleanly, more dirty, and would cause "a good deal of trouble and expense to the inmates." Messrs. J. THURBURN and WEI A YUK supported him, and the Council unanimously decided not to approve of the Bye-law.

As far as we know, the villages of Stanley and Aplichau have so far escaped from plague this year. At Shauiwan there have been nine cases, at Quarry Bay five, and at Aberdeen two. We shall be told, of course, that it is a case of *post hoc, non ergo propter hoc*. The poor villagers, it is true, have died, but this is much cheaper than if they or the house-owners had been compelled to limewash the houses once in six months. Limewashing, we know, does not prevent plague, but dirt encourages it. Still, if the poor villagers like to be dirty and help to spread plague, it would be tyrannical to make them clean out their dwellings—hovels, some one called them at the Sanitary Board—as often as twice a year. And this is the wisdom of the Legislative Council, official and unofficial members alike!

THE EVACUATION OF CHIHLI.

(Daily Press, 30th May.)

The withdrawal of the troops of the Powers from North China has commenced and is proceeding with considerable despatch, it would appear. We have seen the departure from Hongkong of a certain part of the Indian expeditionary force. Other detachments are now preparing to start for this port on their way south. The British garrison of Shanghai is to be reduced by one regiment. The troops of other nationalities are getting ready to leave, if they are not already on their way home. Some Powers have reached a more advanced stage in the process of evacuation. The Germans are proceeding at once to Tsintau, while the departure of their ironclad squadron is only temporarily delayed. The United States forces, with the exception of 150 men left as guards for the American Legation at Peking, have sailed from Taku for Manila. The French military headquarters were removed to

Tientsin on the 17th instant. Some of the Republic's forces have already passed south; 2,000 had left North China on the 15th instant. The Japanese quitted their quarter in Peking still earlier. The Chinese administration of part at least of Peking has been recommenced, and will be continued provisionally and experimentally for a fortnight. In the meantime, from native sources we hear of a commission despatched from Hsianfu to prepare the Imperial Palaces for the reception of the Emperor and those who will accompany him to Peking. Among these it is not anticipated that the Empress Dowager will be one, for the changed atmosphere of the capital will not be likely to agree with her. From the advanced state of affairs in connection with the departure of the foreign troops from Peking, and from Chihli generally, it may be gathered that the Allies are satisfied that further resistance from China to their demands is not forthcoming, and that all that remains to be done in the way of negotiations can be conducted perfectly well by purely diplomatic methods. The various Governments concerned, being kept presumably in full touch with affairs by their civil and military advisers, should be in a position to judge exactly on this point. That they will not be disappointed in their expectations must be the hope of those who are not in the same position.

THE MISSIONARY TROUBLES AND A PROPOSED CURE.

(Daily Press, 31st May.)

The Viceroy of Chihli has requested that the Rev. TIMOTHY RICHARDS shall remain at Peking to formulate a set of regulations to obviate any future missionary troubles in China, and it is a great testimony to this able missionary that he has inspired the Chinese with such confidence as to draw this proposal from LI HUNG-CHANG. Nor is it possible, if the problem can be solved in such a manner, that a better choice could have been made. Mr. RICHARDS is known to the European residents all over China and to a very great number of natives as an upright, wise, and level-headed man. Were the mass of missionaries like him there would be little cause for missionary troubles. But the difficulties at the outset of the task proposed for him are enormous. Granted that he is able to formulate a set of rules acceptable to the Chinese, is it at all probable that they will be received favourably by all the missionary bodies themselves? Will the Roman Catholic priests consent to forego the official privileges which have been extorted from China on their behalf? And yet we can imagine no cure for missionary troubles which does not abolish this anomaly. Again, Mr. RICHARDS must assume that the missionaries are to be prudent and well-conducted. But it is of course ridiculous to imagine that a total change will come over all the members of the bodies loosely classed together as "Protestant" and of the Roman Catholic societies. Unless a restriction be put upon the influx of missionaries, we shall again get the unfit and half-educated, even the mercenary, intruding as before in a field where they have no right, and by their example bringing reproach on their worthy and honourable fellow-workers. As to the question of women-missionaries, we have not the advantage of knowing what are the views of Mr. RICHARDS. We should imagine, however, that to a man of such experience as he possesses there can be little doubt that the unlimited travelling of white women, accompanied by their children in no few cases, to remote districts of the interior of

China, in some of which at least the inhabitants have proved that they are at heart no better than savages, is reprehensible. We should use a far stronger expression, and we are convinced that the mass of impartial people look on this conduct on the part of certain missionary bodies as a deep reproach to them and those of their members who support the practice.

Such are a few of the difficulties which attend the task which the Rev. TIMOTHY RICHARDS has been asked to undertake. More will suggest themselves to our readers. We do not think, however, that Mr. RICHARDS'S work need be in vain. Perhaps the utmost for which we are justified in hoping is that the suggestions put forth may be taken as the basis of a discussion on the question, and that the religious bodies engaged in the work of proselytising in China may be induced to look into the matter, and attempt to correct the numerous blunders which they have made in carrying out their ideas. The likelihood of the Governments, whose nationals the missionaries are, taking any notice is too remote, perhaps, to be worth consideration; so that the duty is all the more incumbent on the missionary societies to rectify the mistakes which they have made in the past. They have had ample opportunity of learning that mere zeal is not a sufficient equipment for the agents whom they employ. All the well-meaning young people in the world will not produce as much result as one able and practical teacher. If China be capable of conversion to Christianity, it will certainly not be by means of such instruments as have been found wanting in the past. We are unable to see what objection the various societies have to selection of their agents on some rational principle. It is surely a very false view of the history of Christianity which would make out that its successes were gained by instruments taken up at random, in the manner in which Chinese troops have been known in the past to choose their weapons.

THE CRISIS TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 26th May, 10 p.m.

The China Merchants have been ordered to commence sending the tribute rice to Tientsin. This is the first certain indication of the Imperial Court's return.

The Empress Dowager is furious with Wang Wen-shao for suggesting that the Emperor should return to Peking by way of Nanking and Shanghai.

SHANGHAI, 27th May, 8.10. p.m.

The German ironclad squadron was ordered yesterday (Sunday) to proceed homeward on Friday next. To-day, however, the Admiral has been ordered to postpone slightly the return of the fleet to German waters.

It is understood that one regiment of the British garrison here is leaving soon.

SHANGHAI, 28th May, 8 p.m.

Four thousand insurgents from Kweichau have entered Szechuen, causing a general panic. It is reported that three thousand Yumantzes of the old gang are proceeding to join them.

Tientsin reports that the Boxers have attacked the Roman Catholic converts at Tulin. Grand [?] firing has occurred on both sides.

SHANGHAI, 29th May, 7 p.m.

The German ironclad squadron departs on Saturday next.

Li Hung-chang has requested the Rev. Timothy Richards to remain at Peking to formulate regulations to obviate any future missionary troubles.

SHANGHAI, 30th May, 8.12 p.m.

An Imperial Decree abolishes all precedents as to the procedure of the Six Boards, and orders the Government to return to the simple rules of the ancient dynasties.

THE NEED OF MUNICIPAL FREEDOM IN HONGKONG.

III.

A PLAGUE HOSPITAL SCANDAL.

GOVERNMENT APATHY.

OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF LOCAL MISGOVERNMENT.

REMEDIES FOR EXISTING EVILS.

In commencing the third and final article on the grievances of this Colony, may I be permitted to endorse in its entirety the able article which appeared in Monday's *Hongkong Daily Press*? In the two articles which have appeared above the signature of "Scrutator," and in the whole of the correspondence which arose from these, the good government of this Colony in matters other than those of municipal and local interest has not been questioned. We have much to be grateful for: such is the privilege of a resident in any British Crown Colony. In endeavouring to bring about reform in the Sanitary condition of Hongkong, and to remedy those abuses which may be considered purely local, or parochial, or municipal, I take it, we are doing so with but one ambition—to promote to its utmost capacity the general prosperity of Hongkong, and to improve as much as possible its present system of local government. In doing this we are acting up to the best traditions of Englishmen. In Hongkong we possess undoubted privileges; we also suffer from undoubted and unmitigated evils. It is our duty as colonists, and the duty of the local Government also, to remedy abuses, and eradicate—if money, brains and energy can do so—any existing evils. The local Government has apparently tried and failed; for the evils continue to flourish and the colonists pay the penalty. We are justified in writing of Government efforts in the past tense, because it is obvious, for he who runs may read, that the Government is now apathetic and inactive, and the grievances march on triumphantly. If the Colony of Hongkong were transferred to the centre of England arrayed in all the glory of its numerous conspicuous abuses, a thorough overhauling would be but a question of days. Therefore, as such grievances could not for any length of time exist at home, why should they continue to survive here, and if anything, grow worse in the survival? Conditions and surroundings are different here, we know; but as the local Government always ignores this argument, it may not be out of place to follow that example in the present hypothesis.

It would be useful to the public to know what new steps the Government has actually taken in dealing with plague since the Europeans were attacked. It would also be of interest to know what the Government has done in the way of reform since the gross Sanitary scandals were pointed out. At the present moment Hongkong is infecting the world with plague, which is also pressing harshly on the business of the Colony. During H.E. the Governor's absence at Macao he has no doubt been kept well informed as to the rapid progress of the disease, and particularly of its attacks on Europeans. The recent step that has come to the notice of the public which the Government has undertaken in the interest of Sanitary reform, is that of the establishment of public baths for coolies, which, all will be glad to know, are being much used and appreciated. H.E. the Governor is to be personally congratulated on this improvement, which Dr. Clark and his colleagues on the Sanitary Board have persistently advocated,

but hitherto, unsuccessfully, for the last seven years. H.E. the Governor has also asked the Sanitary Board to consider a model lodging house for Chinese. This is gratifying, for the Board has been urging this for years past, and requested the Government to offer a premium for the best design for tenements, but was refused.

There is in existence at the present moment in connection with the Kennedy Town Hospital for infectious diseases an exceedingly grave scandal. This is a matter which does not come within the scope of things municipal, but it is an evil which should be immediately rectified by H.E. the Governor, concerning as it does so closely the public health in the treatment of plague cases. It is indeed typical of not a few official departments in this Colony. It has given rise to a serious allegation, which, however, has been found to be untrue. It was stated that the late Mr. Mehta died in Kennedy Town Hospital from bubonic plague unattended. This is incorrect, inasmuch as he was attended at the last by the wardmaster, or nurse, who resides near the premises. But Mr. Mehta was not attended, when he died, by a physician, for the reason that there is only one physician in charge of the plague hospital, who is compelled to attend to other duties—the health of the Police, the Gaol and miscellaneous services. This medical officer is exceedingly overworked, and it can readily be understood that during the present epidemic of plague the constant presence of a doctor at Kennedy Town Hospital is absolutely essential to attend there and there alone. Moreover, it is the duty of the Government in compulsorily removing patients from their own homes and from the constant care of their doctors to provide full and efficient medical attention at the hospital. The majority of deaths from plague are due to sudden heart-failure, and the attendance of a medical man may often save an unconscious patient's life by the prompt application of appropriate remedies. The medical officer, through pressure of other work, is not only unable to be in continual attendance at the hospital, but is actually compelled to live a mile from it, instead of having a residence adjoining the hospital and within immediate call. It will be remembered that Dr. Thomson applied for medical assistance, which was refused. Seeing the large amount of money the Government has at its disposal, it is difficult to understand such grievous and criminal parsimony.

Seeing that the epidemic is now raging with increasing intensity, and knowing the want of an adequate medical staff to deal with it, and recognising the wretched insanitary condition of the Colony generally, which is so favourable to the spread of plague, one would have imagined that the Government would have risen to the occasion and invited medical men resident elsewhere to assist in combating the epidemic as was done in 1894. An invitation would probably have brought many medical men here, now engaged in mission work in South China, who would cheerfully have given assistance. Even if not directly engaged in attending plague patients, their assistance would be invaluable to the overworked and scandalously undermanned Public Health staff in the work of discovering and removing the stricken, and thoroughly and scientifically dealing with infected localities.

In previous articles I have dealt with existing evils which a proper and adequate system of municipal control would conceivably abate. If any official confirmation as to the existence of those evils be needed, it is to be found in the last Report issued by that energetic, capable, but overworked officer, Dr. Clark, the Medical Officer of Health. His Report has been presented to the Sanitary Board, but for some reasons there was considerable delay in its being accepted by the Government. A few quotations from the report will prove of interest, and the words in black type appear so in the original copy:—

"The domestic buildings of the City of Victoria number 8,600 (exclusive of Barracks and Police Stations), of which 788 are European dwellings, while there are some 130 European dwellings in the hill district."

"GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION."

"The year has been a very busy one, owing to the enforcement of the provisions of the

Insanitary Properties Ordinance of 1899, which was passed on November 28th of that year, and which required *inter alia*, the provision of open spaces in the rear of many existing domestic buildings. A large number of old buildings throughout the Colony have now been provided with these backyards, and although they rarely exceed the legal minimum of 50 square feet in area, yet some improvement is already perceptible in the lighting and ventilation of the back part of many of these dwellings. All new domestic buildings must now be provided with back lanes, or backyards, varying from 6 feet to 14 feet in width, in accordance with the depth of the house, and as plans of no less than 1,319 new buildings have been sent in during the year, it will be seen that this provision will gradually have a marked effect upon the general sanitary condition of the Colony. The Sanitary Board are now engaged upon an earnest attempt to secure a reduction in the present excessive height of buildings, for the provisions of the present law in this respect are calculated to stultify, to a great extent, the benefit which should accrue from these open spaces in the rear of buildings. For more than fifty years past, many of the larger cities of Great Brit in have prohibited the erection of buildings of a greater height than the width of the streets on which they front, while in this Colony domestic buildings can still be erected, under certain conditions, to a height of 46 feet in lanes of only 14 feet in width, and in streets of just over 20 feet in width buildings can be erected of a height of 45 feet and can have balconies on either side of such street projecting over the footways and reducing the width of such street which is open to the sky to 11 or 12 feet only. Many old houses which were originally designed as two-story buildings have recently been raised to three and four-story buildings under this present law, and the sooner therefore the law is amended in this respect, the better will it be for the general sanitary condition of the Colony.

"The question of the resumption of insanitary or obstructive buildings is one which must shortly receive the serious attention of the Government, as there are many private lanes in the city which have been converted into insanitary courts by the erection of dwellings at both ends of the lane, leaving a passage-way only below the first floor. Such obstructive buildings should be resumed and demolished, and this can now be readily done under the Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance of 1900, while legislation is needed to prohibit the further erection of such obstructive buildings.

"Several additional latrines were in process of erection at the latter end of the year, but there is still the same urgent need for urinals, especially in the City of Victoria. This need has been pointed out by me since 1897, and it is, I believe, one of the principal causes of the offensive smells which arise from many of the street gullies and the drains, as, in the absence of suitable conveniences, the coolies have no option but to make use of these receptacles for the purpose."

"POPULATION."

"The population of the Colony at the census taken in January, 1897, was 248,880, while at the census taken in January, 1901, it was 283,955, exclusive of the army and navy.

"The city of Victoria is divided into ten Health Districts, with an inspector of nuisances in charge of each district; there are also five first-class inspectors for the city, each of whom has the general supervision of two districts and has in addition certain special duties such as the disinfection of infected premises, the prosecution of offenders, the up-keep of the dust-boats, dust-carts, etc., and the control of the Chinese cemeteries."

"Nos. 5 and 6 Health Districts, which are situated in the centre of the city, show acute surface crowding while Districts 9, 4, 3, and 7 are almost as densely crowded. Owing to the conformation of the island, the only possible remedy for this acute congestion is the provision of more ready means of access to the outlying districts of the city, and it is to be hoped that the Government will see their way, at no distant date, to provide, or to encourage the provision of tramways to East Point and the Shaikwan Road with nominal fares for

workmen, thus offering an inducement to the Chinese to reside in these suburbs.

"The density of population of the City of Victoria as a whole, that is to say, including all the outlying vacant lands and the villages in No. 1 Health District, the Public Gardens in No. 3 Health District, and all the unoccupied hill-side below the upper limit of the City Health Districts (i.e. about 45 feet above high-water mark) is 128 persons per acre. In 1898 the average density of population in the administrative County of London was 60 persons per acre, while in Glasgow it was 61, in Liverpool 50, and in Edinburgh 47 persons per acre—Glasgow being the most densely crowded of the thirty-six large towns of the United Kingdom."

It is here important to note that Glasgow is the only city in the United Kingdom where plague has appeared and where it has retained its hold.

MALARIA.

Writing on this, Dr. Clark states:—

"In a recent Report to the Royal Society, Drs. Stephens and Christophers, who are working at this subject in Lagos, say that 'to stamp out native malaria is at present chimerical, and every effort should rather be turned to the protection of Europeans,' and I certainly think that the same principle holds good in this Colony. The Colony has recently acquired a very extensive addition to its territory, and every effort should be made to secure and maintain an extensive European reservation in this new territory, before the land becomes too valuable for the Government to be able to resume from the native holders. This reservation should be surrounded by a zone of neutral ground, at least a quarter of a mile wide, on which neither European nor native dwellings should be allowed, but which should be utilised by the Government for the cultivation of trees or laid out in part as a recreation ground. There is no objection to a small number of personal servants residing within the reservation area, but in no case should any native families be allowed, as it is the native children, and especially those under the age of ten years, who are the principal source of infection in Malaria." The Italian Government has voted large sums for dealing with and combating malaria. What a poor nation can accomplish a rich one might surely attempt.

"The question of the Medical Inspection of all Vessels immediately on their entering the Harbour is still in abeyance, pending the appointment of an officer who shall devote the whole of his time to this duty. There can be no question that such a provision would protect the Colony from importation of many cases of infectious disease, which are now unrecognized, until after landing, or even escape detection altogether." But the Government is satisfied to jog along with a system which was only moderately successful when the town to be dealt with was a third of its present dimensions and the Health Officer spent his whole working day on the harbour.

Such is the report of the Medical Officer of Health, and no stronger confirmation could be given of the existence of evils which have been pointed out in the previous articles and correspondence.

REMEDIES.

The *Hongkong Daily Press* has suggested that a public meeting of ratepayers should be convened "to consider the best means for making representations to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in favour of the establishment of a Municipal Council for the City of Victoria." I am of opinion that the meeting should also be held for an additional purpose which should take precedence of the request for a Municipal Council. This is, that the Ratepayers should ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies to appoint a Special Commissioner with full powers to inquire thoroughly into the sanitation of the Colony. The Commissioner should be a strong and a capable man, who would not hesitate to call "a spade a spade." That should form the first resolution of the meeting, and the second should be a request for the appointment of a Municipal Council to take over the sanitary control of the Colony, the waterworks, roads and public works in a defined radius. This Council should supersede the present Sanitary Board, and possess larger and more comprehensive powers and be

its own executive, both in finance and general municipal administration. The Legislative Council, as in other Crown Colonies, would keep a check on any possible extravagancy, but, at the same time, the Legislative Council should be enlarged and more representative of the community than it is at present. The Municipal Council would be of little use if it did not possess adequate power to deal fully with sanitary and Public Health matters, supervision of buildings, roads, etc., and possess, as in Singapore, its own engineering, sanitary and medical staffs.

Many Ratepayers at present look askance at the proposal of a Municipal Council, because of the immense power the Chinese would possess if every ratepayer, irrespective of nationality, were entitled to vote. On the face of it, it would seem that the Chinese votes would swamp out the European, and the result would be either a Council composed of Chinese or of Europeans who for certain personal motives might influence the Chinese electorate. The same conditions prevail in Singapore as in Hongkong in the matter of races, and it may dissipate any fears of the above to learn that the Chinese representation there is restricted to two members. The Chinese also might only be allowed to vote in the election of their own representatives.

Should the suggestion for a Municipal Council, even after the successful example of Singapore, not be considered advisable, then a request should be made that the Sanitary Board be remodelled and reimpowered on the lines of a Municipal Commission.

SCRUTATOR.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

BEACONSFIELD ARCADE TO BE CLOSED.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Saturday, the 24th ult., to consider the advisability of closing the premises known as Beaconsfield Arcade during the prevalence of the present epidemic of bubonic plague in the city. The President (Hon. W. Chatham, Acting Director of Public Works) occupied the chair, and the other members present were Dr. Bell (Principal Civil Medical Officer), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Lt.-Col. Hughes, R.A.M.C., Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, Mr. Chan A Fook, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, the standing orders were suspended.

The following report by Dr. CLARK, which had been circulated, was submitted:—

"I have the honour to report that another European case of bubonic plague has occurred in Beaconsfield Arcade to-day; this makes a total of five Europeans and three Chinese cases from this block of buildings, and I beg to recommend that the Board should consider the advisability of closing these premises as unfit for human habitation during the prevalence of the present epidemic. I am inclined to think that the large quantity of grain and other foodstuffs stored on the Parade Ground must have attracted a large number of rats to the neighbourhood, and that these rats have infected the buildings in the immediate vicinity. A number of dead rats have been recently found in the City Hall, but I have no information as to whether any have been found at Murray Barracks. I attach the necessary certificate. I recommend that a special meeting of the Board should be called for noon to-morrow to consider this question."

The following minutes were appended:—

Lt.-Col. Hughes—I recommend that Beaconsfield Arcade be evacuated without delay, thoroughly disinfected, and kept closed until the subsidence of the epidemic.

Dr. Bell—I agree with the M.O.H.

The PRESIDENT said that Dr. Clark, in consequence of the recurrence of cases of plague in Beaconsfield Arcade, had certified that the houses there were unfit for human habitation, and had recommended that they be closed without delay, and kept closed.

Dr. BELL—Perhaps the Medical Officer of Health will tell us exactly the number of cases?

The PRESIDENT—There is a total of five European and three Chinese cases from that block of buildings.

Mr. OSBORNE—Does that mean, sir, that the premises will not be open at any hour?

Dr. CLARK—I consulted the Crown Solicitor yesterday, and he says that the Board has absolute power to close up the premises. However, no harm could be done by allowing the shops to remain open during the day-time.

Dr. BELL—How about the tailor's shop? That place seems to me to be a mass of plague from one end to the other. I should be inclined to shut the place up entirely. If coolies are to be allowed there all day, squatting about, they are as much likely to get the infection as if they were there all night too. I should be in favour of shutting the whole place up, and clearing everybody out.

Mr. OSBORNE—Could we close up the back premises and just leave open the shops?

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN—Have there been plague cases in everyone of these houses?

Dr. CLARK—No. There are fourteen houses, but they all communicate.

Mr. OSBORNE—It will be a very serious matter for those people living in Beaconsfield Arcade and carrying on business there if we close up the whole place entirely. Although I quite believe in drastic measures where there are great evils, I think we should perhaps do better if we were to close the place only between the hours of sunrise and sunset, and if possible the whole of the back quarters, leaving open only the front quarters, where light and air can enter, so that people could still carry on their business. Those who are wise will clear out of their own accord. Then, if we found there were any more cases of plague after these measures had been enforced, say for three or four days, we might close the place entirely. I would move as a resolution that the whole of the premises be declared unfit for human habitation, and that the whole of the back quarters and the Chinese tailor shop be closed at once, but that, in the meantime, if no more cases of plague occur, people carrying on business there may continue to do so, until a further case of plague arise, between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

Dr. CLARK—Our statistics this year show that, amongst the Chinese female cases, a heavy mortality occurred among seamstresses.

Mr. OSBORNE—Were any of those cases out of that tailor's shop?

Dr. CLARK—Not that we know of.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN thought the tailor's shop should be closed because of people getting clothes from it.

The PRESIDENT—It seems to me to put these people in a very awkward position. They may be desirous of going in order to protect themselves, and, unless we declare the place closed, they may be liable to pay rent. It is a hardship for these people to be compelled to move their business in this summary fashion, but, on the other hand, they will probably be able to find other premises, and they would be relieved of any further responsibility in connection with the present premises.

Mr. OSBORNE—With all due deference, I don't think we are called upon to consider that question at all. Whatever the arrangement between the landlord and tenant, we are here to act only in safeguarding the public health. Whatever the results may be, that has nothing to do with us. We are not called upon to consider that at all.

Dr. BELL—I think the house ought to be shut up day and night, maskee the tenants. We have got to do our business from a sanitary point of view, and I think that place is so infected that it should not remain open. You will get a certain amount of infection there in the day time, and if the place is bad you want to shut it up. I think you ought to close the building both day and night.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN—I think the amendment is rather strong, because, if we close up this place day and night, we will have to close so many other places. The Hongkong Dispensary had a number of cases. It would be a very serious thing to close up day and night.

Dr. CLARK—The bye-law says distinctly that the Board has power to close. Personally, I was inclined to allow such businesses as the gunsmith shop to be carried on, but there are no half-measures. If we are to close, we must close entirely.

Mr. OSBORNE—Well, sir, seeing there is no way to qualify the step we are taking, I beg to propose that the Board order the premises known as Beaconsfield Arcade to be closed during the prevalence of the epidemic of bubonic

plague, under section 7 of the Disinfection of Premises Bye-Laws continued in schedule B of Ordinance No. 13 of 1901.

Dr. BELL seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

PEEL STREET AND WELLINGTON STREET.

Dr. CLARK reported—I have the honour to report that at least five cases of plague have occurred, since the 20th inst., at Nos. 15, 17, and 19, Peel Street, which are old houses communicating directly with each other, and I attach a certificate recommending that the premises be closed. The premises are full of cubicles, partitions, etc., which, although not illegal, render the premises very insanitary, and I consider that the owner should be required to clear out the whole of these accessory fittings and either burn them or have them thoroughly disinfected and exposed to sunlight and air freely, and that then the Sanitary Board will be in a position to thoroughly cleanse and disinfect the place. I have also to report that at least four cases have occurred at No. 63, Wellington Street, since the 23rd inst., and that these premises should also be vacated, and I attach the necessary certificate accordingly.

On the motion of Dr. BELL, seconded by Lieut.-Col. HUGHES, the recommendation of Dr. Clark was agreed to.

CHINESE OPEN AIR THEATRICALS STOPPED.

Mr. OSBORNE—In accordance with notice, I beg to move that the Government be asked not to give permission to Chinese to hold open-air or mat-shed theatrical performances during epidemics of plague. I believe that, at the present moment, there is more than one huge mat-shed theatre at Yaumati, and others in other parts of the Colony, and I think there are some in the city. I believe that those in the city close somewhere about midnight, but those at Yaumati, I believe, continue throughout the whole night. They are attended by thousands of Chinese, many of them of a very undesirable class, the riff-raff of the community, and also by a large proportion of young people, who but for these theatres would probably be simply taking an evening walk, or, perhaps, asleep in their homes. We know from experience that these large accumulations of people generally end in an early outbreak of plague, and, for that reason, the Government stopped the Chinese from coming to Hongkong from Canton and the surrounding country to our races, and it was generally believed, and I think rightly believed, that that measure stayed off present and previous outbreaks of plague. What holds good for the races also holds good for theatrical performances. Amongst these thousands are bound to be many, some at all events, who have either the plague on them or whose clothing is infected with plague, and I think we should ask the Government to put a stop, as far as possible during plague epidemics, to any large gathering of Chinese people. It will, perhaps, more than anything else bring it home to these people what plague means in this Colony when they find that their amusements are stopped. I would not give that as a reason for doing it, but I think that where a large number of otherwise healthy people intermix with unhealthy people, cases of disease are bound to occur, and I think these performances should be stopped.

The PRESIDENT—With regard to Yaumati, I am aware of one such place there, and notice has been served on the people to have it removed within, I think, seven days. The permit in connection with it was given before there was anything in the nature of an epidemic of plague. Had it come forward at the time when there was an epidemic, it would not have been issued. I am not aware of other mat-sheds. I will second Mr. Osborne's motion.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN—I suppose you refer only to mat-sheds?

Mr. OSBORNE—Only to mat-shed and open-air theatres, not to the regular Chinese theatre.

Dr. CLARK—I think Mr. Osborne refers also to open-air demonstrations such as took place at Wanchai the other day.

Mr. OSBORNE—Yes.

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

THE FREE BATHS FOR COOLIES—A QUESTION OF SOAP.

Dr. CLARK—I think the Board might take this opportunity of informing the Government

that the free baths for coolies have been a greater success than was anticipated. Crowds of coolies swarm round them, and the only difficulty is that they cannot get enough warm water. I think the Government might double or even treble the number of baths. There is another matter to be mentioned, and that is the supplying of soap. I think it might be left to the Sanitary Board to supply something in the shape of carbolicine—something that will give a lather. At present the coolies only get a rub-down with clean water. We cannot provide soap, because every coolie who took a bath might walk off in proud possession of a cake. (Laughter.) I think it would do to have a tub of carbolicine handy—the coolies could always then have a lather. I move that the Government be asked to increase considerably the number of these bath-houses throughout the Colony, and that it be left to the Sanitary Board to provide something in the form of soap.

Mr. OSBORNE seconded.

The PRESIDENT—Can you give any idea of the districts generally where they should be increased.

Mr. OSBORNE—Everywhere.

The PRESIDENT—One district, though, may require them more than another. Is it not the case that in the western district the bath-houses are most used?

Dr. CLARK—I'll find out.

Lieut.-Col. HUGHES—I think some means ought to be taken to carry off the dirty water, because now it oozes out into the street and accumulates there.

The PRESIDENT—I may explain that these bath-houses have been rushed up in a great hurry. Care was, however, taken that they should all be placed over concrete surfaces, so as to obviate any trouble such as Lieut.-Col. Hughes seems to indicate. With these surfaces it would be possible to take a bucket of water and give them a good scrubbing. Perhaps the Sanitary Board would see that was done.

Dr. CLARK's motion, on a show of hands, being taken, was carried unanimously.

This was all the business.

A meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on the 30th ult. at the Board Room, the Hon. W. Chatham (President) in the Chair. There were also present the Hon. F. H. May (Vice-president), Dr. Bell (Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer), Mr. Brewin (Registrar General), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, Mr. Chan A Fook, and Mr. Woodcock (Secretary).

THE LIGHTING OF THE CENTRAL MARKET.

The Secretary read a letter from the Government informing the Board that a section of the Central Market had been experimentally fitted up by the Electric Light Company with a lamp over each shop, and requesting the Board to report on the experiment after it had received a fair trial. The communication added that the Director of Public Works had also submitted a proposal to heighten 92 windows in the ground floor at an estimated cost of \$3,100, a sum which His Excellency the Governor intended to recommend the Legislative Council to vote for the purpose.

The PRESIDENT said he did not know whether any of them had visited the market to see the additional lights which had been placed over the shops. He had visited the market himself, and had found that in a butcher's shop just inside the main entrance they were using lamps for carrying on book-keeping. Otherwise the market was well lighted.

Dr. CLARK observed that the market had a double light now. The one which had been placed as an experiment could be readily switched off.

The PRESIDENT: We will defer the consideration of this matter till the next meeting.

VENTILATING CHINESE HOUSES.

The Secretary read a minute from His Excellency the Governor on the subject of ventilating Chinese houses. The Governor said that no information accumulated up to the present moment had enabled the Government to assume with any confidence the source from which it was plague originated, or the means by which propagated. Much the largest proportion of the reported cases had occurred in houses noted as being in a fair sanitary con-

dition, some in houses returned as "good" and very few in houses returned as "bad." The epidemic in Hunghom was among the best paid working population in the colony, and the three-storied houses, all lately built, were situated in streets fifty feet wide. However, there seemed to be a strong feeling that ill-lighted dwellings were at the bottom of the mischief, and there could be no doubt that the Chinese house of the usual pattern, as constructed in Hongkong, was an ill-lighted and ill-ventilated dwelling. The population was increasing rapidly, and hundreds of Chinese dwellings were being erected. It seemed to him (His Excellency) that the time had come when the Government should insist upon the erection of none but properly lighted dwellings in Hongkong and Kowloon, and he sent for the consideration of the Sanitary Board a plan of Chinese house that would appear to satisfy those conditions, inasmuch as every cubicle would be lighted by its own window. It had been remarked by the M.O.H. that the greatest proportion of cases occurred on the first floors, where presumably rats would not be so numerous as on the ground floor, and the possibility had been suggested that the concrete and cement of the ground floors was less likely to be infected, or to retain infection than the wooden floors of the upper stories. If, as he (His Excellency) was informed, the Chinese frequently cover the boards with tiles, which they liked better than the wooden floor, it might be worth considering if all floors of the Chinese houses to be built in future as work-peoples' dwellings should not be covered with tiles, or a mixture of concrete and cement, that would be non-absorptive and easily kept clean. He (His Excellency) understood that the floors of the new barracks in Kowloon had been constructed with concrete and iron girders, but he presumed that if tiles were used on wooden joists rough boards could equally be coated with concrete. The cost of such houses would be greater than that of the blocks at present erected, but he took it that the additional expense might be saved in the premium paid for the building lot, the amount of which was settled by the purchasers in open competition. Should the Sanitary Board approve of his suggestion, intending purchasers would have due notice that houses to be erected for occupation by the Chinese working classes must satisfy certain conditions as to lighting and ventilation, &c., &c., to be laid down.

The Hon. F. H. May minuted:—"The plan is a good one and with a back lane in rear of the house would be a vast improvement."

The President minuted:—"The division between the yards on ground floor might be partly wall and partly railing. The height of the wall shown on the plan is only 9 ft. 6 in., so it will not tend to affect the light or ventilation to any great extent. Instead of the limitations suggested by the Medical Officer of Health, I think it would be preferable to specify an increased width of open yard, which involves an increase in the width of the houses, in proportion to the increase in the depth of the house."

Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health) minuted:—"I am afraid I cannot agree with the President that a brick wall 9½ feet high, within five feet of the windows of the ground floor, would "not tend to affect the light or ventilation to any great extent." I think the Board should allow iron railings only, although I would have no objection to the railings being set on a wall three or four feet high, if that would be any advantage to the tenants. With regard to the yard, and adopting the President's suggestion to increase the size of this in proportion to the size of the house rather than increasing the back lane, I would say: Let the yard be always half the length of the house (as it is in this plan) and let its width be for each house, 4 feet for two story buildings, 5½ feet for three story buildings, 7½ feet for four story buildings, 9 feet for buildings of more than four stories. This would give, of course, a yard 8 feet wide for each pair of two story houses, and so on. The Board, in November, 1899, asked the Government to offer a premium for the best design for a block of Chinese tenement houses, and the request was refused. Since then plans of over two thousand new houses on the old design had been sent in and approved, and could not now be recalled."

Mr. OSBORNE thought that with regard to the proposed model houses it would be advisable to take the opinion of those Chinese who are likely to live in them.

It was ultimately agreed that Mr. Fung Wa Chuen should take the plan away and consult the Chinese on the subject.

THE 1902 ESTIMATES.

The Secretary read a number of proposals of the Medical Officer of Health relative to the estimates for 1902. Dr. Clark suggested that the Board should strongly recommend the Government to provide for the erection of a disinfecting station in British Kowloon. The buildings would cost about \$9,000, and he suggested that the apparatus be removed from the Caine Lane station to the Kowloon station, and that a new machine be purchased for Victoria, as the present one was too small to meet the demands of the city, and at the present time was working night and day to get through the work. The cost of the new machine would be about \$5,000. It would also be necessary, Dr. Clark added, for the Government to erect quarters at the Kowloon station which would cost about \$4,000, and which would save the Government a house allowance of \$360 a year. A new shed and annexes for the disinfecting staff at Caine Road were also needed, and that would cost about \$8,000. The Board must also consider what was to be done in regard to Kowloon City, which was now under their control; either an inspector of nuisances must be engaged for that district, or the same arrangement made which now obtained in the villages of Hongkong, namely, that the police officer in charge be paid \$15 a month for sanitary duties. The pay of the engineer at the disinfecting station was only \$18 a month, and consequently he was not an engineer, whereas one was necessary, and he (Dr. Clark) would suggest therefore that a Chinese engineer be obtained at \$35 a month, and that, in lieu of the watchman who now got \$9 a month, they should have a stoker at \$12 a month. He might add that the present watchman was leaving on account of inadequate pay. Three more spray machines were also required, with extra fittings, and these would cost about \$500.

The President minuted that the proposals were practically to spend \$26,700 on new disinfecting apparatus.

The Hon. F. H. May minuted:—"These proposals should have been put forward earlier in the year."

Dr. Clark:—"I fail to see why; the estimates are now being prepared and do not go home until nearly the end of the year."

THE REFUSE DESTRUCTOR.

The PRESIDENT said it was agreed in February that the consideration of the report should be deferred till the estimates for next year were under consideration. That time was now approaching, and the question for the Board was to make a recommendation with regard to it. The circumstances had not altered, and it only remained for the Board to say what action should be taken in the matter.

Mr. OSBORNE rose and begged to propose that the Government be asked to redeem its promise, and give them the refuse-destructor, notwithstanding what the committee had said in their report. He thought the majority of the Board would agree with him that the refuse-destructor would be a very valuable assistance in the stamping out of the plague. In one item alone he thought it would be of very great value to the colony—that was in the distribution of the refuse before it was pounced upon by rag-sorters, and men of the streets. For years past it had been the practice to dump the refuse on the Praya, and long before the shipment took place it was gradually sifted by old men, and even young ones, and little bits of odds and ends were taken away. That would avoid the rubbish being deposited anywhere, for it would be taken direct from the house to the destructor, and even in that way alone it would be worth their while to accept it.

Dr. CLARK said he would second the proposal that they again ask the Government to give them a destructor. Year after year they had had complaints as to the burning of plague rubbish on the very small pieces of Crown land which remained in the city. If they had the

destructor they would do away with the nuisance of smoke, and other disagreeable causes.

Dr. BELL—I suppose there is no use asking for two. I agree with the destructor. We want something to burn the refuse.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN—Yes.

Dr. BELL, continuing, said that during the plague of 1894 in every corner of the city they had fires. He thought there should be three destructors, one east, one west, and the third at Yaumati. If they did not get three, they certainly should have one.

The PRESIDENT deprecated the idea because it would be "a rather expensive matter." If the proposed destructors were to be erected in connection with plague cases he thought the Government would recommend it, but if on the other hand it was proposed to use them generally he thought the Government would reject it.

On the motion of Mr. OSBORNE, seconded by Dr. CLARK, the Board decided to ask the Government to obtain the proposed destructor.

AUTOMATIC FLUSHING OF SEWERS—SALE OF CROWN LANDS.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, pursuant to notice, moved—

1. That the Government be requested to direct that, in future, no sales of Crown Land shall take place within the jurisdiction of the Board (i.e., in Hongkong, Kowloon or New Kowloon) until the question has been referred to the Board for its opinion.

2. That the Board recommend the Government to utilise all the fresh water which now runs to waste in the trained and untrained nullahs of the City, by building dams and forming tanks for the automatic flushing of the sewers and storm-water drains.

3. That the Government be requested to again consider the question of the flushing of the sewers and storm-water drains of the City with sea-water pumped from the harbour to suitable storage tanks.

4. That the Government be requested to consider the advisability of trapping all inlet to the storm-water drains, in view of the fact that the "Report on the latrine and urinal accommodation of the City and its connection with the fouling of the storm-water drains" forwarded to the Government in 1899 showed that the contents of the storm-water drains are as foul and in some cases even fouler than the contents of the sewers.

The Hon. F. H. May minuted:—"The report referred to in No. 4 is utterly untrustworthy and is not safe ground to take our opinion of theory on."

Dr. Clark minuted:—"The Government Analyst's report is certainly reliable, and this is all I refer to."

Dr. CLARK said that the Board would admit that it was a most unfortunate thing for the colony that Crown land had been sold, which, had the Sanitary Board been consulted, would never have been placed under the hammer. He referred, for instance, to a sale at the corner of Winglook Street last year to show that the Board would have raised its voice against it. They wanted open spaces, sites for public latrines, markets, and bath-houses, and yet could not obtain them because the Government had sold the land. He then quoted Mr. Chadwick's report of 1882 which urged that continuous back alleys should be insisted upon; that 600 cubic feet of air space should be required per head in all rooms divided by cubicles; that the ground surfaces of all dwellings should be concreted; that an improvement fund should be formed to carry out the larger sanitary reforms, such as the purchase of insanitary properties, and then demolition and the acquisition of the privately owned public latrines; that model dwellings should be erected by the Government, and that roads and drains should be prepared before the building lots are sold; that flushing tanks for the sewers to be filled by the flow in the nullahs; that the number of the public latrines should be greatly increased and that urinals also were greatly needed; that the nuisance caused by hawkers squatting in the public streets should be abolished; that the market accommodation was lamentably deficient; that Public bath houses were much needed, and should be furnished with a good supply of hot water; and that the sanitary condition of Hongkong was defective, and calls for energetic remedial measures. Mr. Chadwick had con-

... sold at Tls. 192.50; China Traders are ... and Cantons are offering. Fire—Chinas ... placed locally at \$87.50. SHIPPING.—Indo ... S. N. Co.—A quieter tone has prevailed, ... rates have receded to Tls. 97. The ... are the settlements:—June \$101, July ... 102, 102.50 locally, October \$105 and 103. ... transport shares changed hands at £3, and ... offering. SUGARS.—Peraks are offering; ... sold at \$36 and 37. MINING.—Raub ... were let go at \$18 locally. Kaiping ... shares have been in strong demand, and ... have taken place from \$200 to 275, ... closing with firm buyers at last-named ... while even higher rates are being offered ... sellers. In the early part of the week ... settlements fetched Tls. 200. DOCKS, ... & Godowns.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd ... Ltd.—The market weakened to sales ... 28.5, but buyers coming in at this figure ... up cash rate to Tls. 200, the closing ... in. The following are the settlements:— ... 300, 295, July 305, 307.50, 300 and 295, ... and September 310. Time shares are ... Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co.— ... ordinary general meeting of shareholders ... for 21st June to consider resolutions to ... the Company under Limited Liability, ... the 5,000 unallotted shares to share- ... in proportion of one new for every three ... shares held, price of issue to be at Tls. 100 ... which premium will be recommended ... appropriated to pay off part of all of out- ... debentures and other of the Company's ... abilities. Shares were placed at Tls. 315 and ... 32.50 for 31st inst. and at \$12.50 for June, and ... are offering. LANDS.—Shanghai were placed at ... Tls. 125. Humphreys Estate shares sold at \$14. ... INDUSTRIAL.—Gas and Major Bros. shares are ... Cotton Mills—Ewos changed hands at ... 50 and a small lot at Tls. 55. Lao Kung ... were placed at Tls. 50. Ice shares sold at ... 31 and are offering. Flours were settled at ... 50 and are wanted. Green Island Cement ... were placed at \$21 and 20 and are wanted ... figure. TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.— ... quiet. MISCELLANEOUS.—Repayment of ... 0,000 debenture loan is now advertised. ... Tobacco Co.—Rates advanced to Tls. 55 ... small lot of shares sold at Tls. 57.50; the ... closes with sales and sellers at Tls. 50. ... Tobacco Co.—Cash sales were reported ... Tls. 355, but shares are offering at 350. ... following are the settlements:—June Tls. ... 300, 350, 355, July 360, August 365 and 372.50, ... 368, 377.50 and 370, December 390. Hall ... and Holtz shares sold at \$33 and 34 and are ... Waterworks shares were placed at Tls. ... Central Stores shares changed hands at ... 112 and are wanted. Shanghai Mutual Teleph- ... The Directors' Report and Statement ... accounts for the period to 31st March last ... been published for presentation at the ... of shareholders called for 27th inst. ... is a sum of Tls. 8,087.58 at credit of Profit ... and Loss Account, which includes Tls. 4,134.09 ... for Allocation Fees—the Directors propose to ... this by writing Tls. 1,817.68 off ... ary Expenses and placing Tls. 2,316.41 ... rve Fund, while it is recommended to ... the remainder of the profit by paying a ... of 5 per cent. or Tls. 3,047.50, and carry- ... the balance of Tls. 305.99 to next ... count.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

LONDON.—Coromandel (str.), Ceylon (str.), ... (str.), Dardanes (str.), Machaon (str.), ... (str.), Prometheus (str.), Shinano Maru ... Hitachi Maru (str.).
LIVERPOOL.—Rhipeus (str.).
MARSEILLES.—Socotra (str.), Shinano Maru ... (str.), Laos (str.), Hitachi Maru (str.).
BREMER.—Hamburg (str.), Wittenberg ...
HAYRE AND HAMBURG.—Sambia (str.), ... (str.), Wittenburg (str.), Nurnberg (str.).
VICTORIA, B.C.—Braemar (str.), Kaga Maru ...
VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.), ... (str.).
PORTLAND (OREGON).—Indravelli (str.).
SAN FRANCISCO.—Nippon Maru (str.), ... (str.).
NEW YORK.—Afridi (str.), Indrani (str.), ... (str.), Glenartney (str.).
SAN DIEGO.—Belgian King (str.).
AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Rosetta Maru (str.), ... (str.).
SINGAPORE AND BOMBAY.—Melpomene (str.).
BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND PENANG.— ... (str.).
BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.— ... (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

May—

23. Obi, British str., from Moji.
23. Eva, German str., from Bangkok
23. Hikoshan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
24. Braemar, British str., from Dalny.
24. Victoria, Swedish str., from Chefoo.
24. Fushun, British str., from Shanghai.
24. Wosang, British str., from Chinkiang.
24. Evis J. Ray, Amr. bark, from Singapore.
24. Parramatta, British str., from Bombay.
24. Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
24. J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
24. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
24. Doric, British str., from San Francisco.
24. Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
25. Nankin, British str., from London.
25. Clavering, British str., from Taku.
25. Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
25. Akashi Maru, Japanese str., from Anping.
25. Amigo, German str., from Manila.
25. Chwnshan, British str., from Bangkok.
25. Bonaventure, British cruiser, from Kobe.
26. Benvolich, British str., from Moji.
26. Calchas, British str., from Shanghai.
26. Diamante, British str., from Manila.
26. Eastern, British str., from Kobe.
26. Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
26. Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
26. Chiyuan, American str., from Shanghai.
26. Conch, British str., from Moji.
27. Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., from Chefoo.
27. Duke of Fife, British str., from Tacoma.
27. Kweiyang, British str., from Tientsin.
27. Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
27. Universe, Norw. str., from Chefoo.
27. Segovia, German str., from Japan.
27. Thales, British str., from Swatow.
27. Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
27. Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
28. Wongkoi, German str., from Yap.
28. Preussen, German str., from Yokohama.
28. Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
28. Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
28. Empress of China, Brit. str., from V'couver.
28. Airlie, British str., from Sydney.
28. Vale of Doon, British bark, from Rajang.
28. Chowtai, German str., from Hoihow.
28. Munchen, Ger. str., from Caroline Islands.
28. Natuna, German str., from Yap.
28. Laisang, British str., from Newport.
28. Prometheus, British str., from Liverpool.
28. Strassburg, German str., from Hamburg.
29. Sachsen, German str., from Bremen.
29. Humber, British storeship, from W'haiwei.
29. Decima, German str., from Saigon.
29. Inaba Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
29. Kwanglee, British str., from Shanghai.
29. Tsintau, German str., from Newchwang.
29. Celest Burrill, British ship, from Manila.
29. Glenloch, British str., from London.
29. Pronto, German str., from Iloilo.
29. Trym, Norwegian str., from Iloilo.
29. Ceylon, British str., from Yokohama.
29. Donau, Austrian cruiser, from Nagasaki.
29. Zaire, Portuguese gunboat, from Macao.
29. Pakhoi, British str., from Canton.
30. Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
30. Thales British str., from Swatow.
30. Marie Jebson, German str., from Saigon.
30. Raja Buri, German str., from Bangkok.
30. Endymion, British str., from Weihaiwei.
30. Fushun, British str., from Canton.
30. St. Enoch, British dredger, from W'wei.
30. Sarnia, German str., from Moji.
30. Sardia, American schr., from Kobe.
31. Wosang, British str., from Canton.
31. Nippon Maru, Jap. str., from S. Francisco.
31. Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
31. M. de Villars, French bark, from Cardiff.
31. Nuen Tung, German str., from Sydney.
31. Melpomene, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
31. Pelayo, British str., from Foochow.
31. Ariake Varu, Jap. str., from Moji.
31. Mengkut, German str., from Bangkok.

June—

1. Daiji Ma u, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
1. Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
1. Anping, British str., from Shanghai.
1. Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Foochow.
1. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.

1. Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
1. Cardium, British str., from Batoum.
1. Seong Leong, British str., from Singapore.
1. Brand, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.

DEPARTURES.

May—

24. Michael Jebson, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
24. Bengloe, British str., for Nagasaki.
24. Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
24. Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Nagasaki.
24. Kusuga Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
24. Suevia, German str., for Singapore.
24. Thales, British str., for Swatow.
24. Anping Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
24. Deuteros, German str., for Mantung.
24. Ulysses, British str., for Manila.
24. Hangchow, British str., for Shanghai.
25. Bengal, British str., for Europe.
25. China, American str., for San Francisco.
25. Parramatta, British str., for Shanghai.
25. Progress, German str., for Touroa.
25. Hoihaio, British str., for Takao.
25. Glory, H.M. battleship, for Yokohama.
25. Pekin, British str., for Moji.
25. Taisang, British str., for Canton.
25. Fushun, British str., for Canton.
25. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
26. Chas. Rogier, Belgian str., for Shanghai.
26. Victoria, Swedish str., for Samarang.
26. Wosang, British str., for Canton.
26. Obi, British str., for Moji.
26. Amigo, German str., for Swatow.
26. Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
26. Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
26. Daijin Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
26. Clavering, British str., for India.
27. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
27. P. C. C. Klao, British str., for Bangkok.
27. Francois Arago, Fr. teleg. str., for Amoy.
27. Largo Bay, British ship, for Callao.
27. Nankin, British str., for Shanghai.
27. Taksang, British str., for Bangkok.
27. Ville D'Alger, French str., for Saigon.
28. Stromboli, Italian cruiser, for Shanghai.
28. Hermione, British cruiser, for Shanghai.
28. Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
28. Calchas, British str., for London.
28. Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
28. Conch, British str., for Singapore.
28. Taishun, American str., for Shanghai.
28. Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
28. Laisang, British str., for Shanghai.
28. Thales, British str., for Swatow.
28. Victoria, British str., for Tacoma.
28. Akashi Maru, Jap. str., for Tamsui.
29. Preussen, German str., for Europe.
29. Telemachus, British str., for Swatow.
29. Yiksang, British str., for Shanghai.
29. A. Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
29. Kutsang, British str., for Java.
29. Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
29. Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., for Chefoo.
29. Loyal, German str., for Bangkok.
29. Hue, French str., for Kwong-chow-wan.
29. Adolph Obrig, Amr. ship, for Baltimore.
30. Sachsen, German str., for Shanghai.
30. Flandria, German str., for Shanghai.
30. Strassburg, German str., for Shanghai.
30. Tsintau, German str., for Canton.
30. Kwanglee, British str., for Canton.
30. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
30. Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
30. Ranza, British str., for Sourabaya.
30. Gwallior, British hospital ship, for Taku.
31. Chwnshan, British str., for Amoy.
31. Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
31. Diamante, British str., for Manila.
31. Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
31. Ceylon, British str., for London.
31. Shantung, British str., for Java.
31. Choysang, British str., for Canton.
31. Pakhoi, British str., for Shanghai.
31. Eastern, British str., for Sydney.
31. Afridi, British str., for New York.
31. Inaba Maru, Jap. str., for London.
31. Segovia, German str., for Hamburg.
31. Taicheong, German str., for Mauritius.

June—

1. Duke of Fife, British str., for Moji.
1. Doric, British str., for San Francisco.
1. Wosang, British str., for Shanghai.
1. Eva, German str., for Batavia.
1. Trym, Norw. str., for Haiphong.
1. Pronto, German str., for Swatow.
1. Fushun, British str., for Shanghai.
1. Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Thales*, from Haiphong, &c., Messrs. Luc and Guilloux and Mlle. Chevalier.

Per *Arratoon Apar*, from Calcutta, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Heber Percy, Lieut. C. Wallace, H.K.R., Messrs. Van Sickle, Knapp and C. H. Jones and Sub-Condutor Graham.

Per *Bengal*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Messrs. W. A. Prewitt and D. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. Williams and two children, Capt. G. F. Napier, Messrs. H. Finkelstein and A. M. Eisenstark, Capt. G. E. Robbins, Mr. J. H. Moller, Miss Moller, Miss N. E. Moller, and Capt. E. K. Moore; for Singapore, Mr. Sternberg; for Brindisi, Mr. M. Friedlandsky; for London, Comdr. Winnington Ingram, R.N., Messrs. G. S. Lapsley, H. W. Jones, A. Stewart, F. M. Noisey, R. Allen, S. Bath, C. Norby, J. C. Roper, J. Crawford, C. Knowles, A. Thompson, W. Howard, A. Howell, and E. Dee; from Yokohama, for Singapore, Mrs. Cleeve and three children; for Bombay, Rev. L. M. Haslope.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, The Right Rev. Bishop of Victoria, Mr. and Mr. Broadbent, and Mr. Maur.

Per *Jacob Diederichsen*, from Haiphong, Mr. Osborne.

Per *Kaifong*, from Iloilo and Cebu, Miss Ridley, Miss Armstrong, and Mr. Switzer.

Per *Doric*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. T. Metcalfe, Messrs. J. R. Nelson, T. Royden, Mrs. Alice Simpson, Mr. J. D. Stevenson, Capt. S. B. Thompson, Messrs. W. Grant, C. R. Wynter, Col. C. L. Heizmann, U.S.A., Misses Schwedersky, A. Hawley, E. Hawley, Messrs. G. L. Bailey, A. H. Wrightson, Capt. Karl Skala, I.A.N., F. Kofod (Pilot), Mrs. J. S. Hagen, Messrs. F. Bonnet, W. S. Jackson, Captains E. Housbery and G. Montgomery, U.S.A.

Per *Parramatta*, for Hongkong, from London, Messrs. R. Bennett, Damerell, Higgins, Robson, Comdr. W. Kemp; from Gibraltar, Mr. and Mrs. Mendes; from Marseilles, Messrs. E. E. Deacon and E. Hooper; from Bombay, Messrs. M. J. Doctor, E. E. Tizo-labhoj, I. Hoosienally, A. W. Wise, J. G. Husain and Master A. Hoosienally; from Singapore, Messrs. W. G. Lancelotti, G. Ranchfuss and J. Mitchell; from Penang, Mr. N. L. Armistage; for Shanghai, from London, Messrs. A. G. Major, H. A. Derry, C. D. Smith, W. E. Brown, H. J. Brett, W. J. Fletcher, A. E. Eastes, G. A. Coombe, O. R. Coates, G. Garstin, E. C. Cooper, W. Earley, F. Foat, Mrs. Hodges, Mrs. Scholes, Sergt. and Mrs. Gouge and Miss Hockings; from Marseilles, Major and Mrs. Greany and Mr. H. A. Holmes; from Brindisi, Mr. England; from Bombay, Mr. C. K. Tyebally; from Singapore Messrs. P. de L. Evans and Macbean.

Per *Calchas*, from Shanghai, Mr. Newton.

Per *Diamante*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Weir, Mr. and Mrs. Biddle Siegert and Mr. Henimorch.

Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Messrs. Davis, Streeter, Eckenrood, Francisco and son, Leslie, Williams, Pickney, Tayoko Jadio, Miss Juki Jito, and Mr. Lonsdale.

Per *Eastern*, from Kobe, Mr., Mrs. and Master Clark, Mrs. Smedley, Mrs. Havers, Mrs. and Misses Chee, Mr. T. Chee, Mrs. Bode, Mrs. Leibins, Mr. and Mrs. J. Roberts, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. and Miss E. Gillespie, Messrs. A. K. Watts and Marman.

Per *Keongwai*, from Bangkok, Mr. Dowson.

Per *Kweiyang*, from Tientsin, Messrs. Harley and Miller.

Per *Preussen*, from Yokohama, Mrs. H. E. Ely, Mrs. M. S. Tavis, Mrs. Charlton, Mrs. E. Stewart, Mrs. Threlfell, Messrs. R. Littmann, A. Rombach, M. Schwartz, Albert Scheirler and Walroff.

Per *Empress of China*, from Vancouver, Hon. H. C. Brooks Johnson and Mr. F. B. Smith; from Yokohama, Mr. E. Hamilton Sharp and Mrs. W. P. Vose; from Kobe, Miss M. G. Murrin; from Nagasaki, Rev. G. G. D. Morrison; from Shanghai, Mr. F. B. S'Jacob.

Per *Airlie*, from Australia, Miss A. M. Bateman, Count D'Oultremont, Mr. F. Stencil, Dr. J. W. Noble, Messrs. R. E. Wilson, L. S. Warner, T. M. Campbell, H. C. Oates, C. J. Yazell, H. D. Wolfe, J. J. Drummond, F. Kendrick, C. J. Pirie, M. Hatson, J. Kent, W. R. Stringfellow and O. van Arsdale.

Per *Haimun*, from Tamsui, &c., Rev. H. G. Johnson.

Per *Sachsen*, from Bremen, for Hongkong, Mr. Fr. Marquardsen; for Yokohama, Mrs. Micksch; from Antwerp, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Schepens and children; from Southampton, for Hongkong, Mrs. Courtney and children; for Shanghai, Mrs. Apin, Rev. J. H. Inglis, Mrs. Menzies, and Rev. H. W. Pullar; from Genoa, for Shanghai, Miss Wilhelmine Corles, Messrs. Max Dengler and Ewald Lekebusch, Governor and Mrs. Truppel and children; for Kobe, Mr. F. L. Marshall; for Yokohama, Miss Helene Luther.

Per *Ceylon*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Lieut. Ingham; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Deighton Braysher, Messrs. W. H. Lovatt and W. Dunnett; from Yokohama, for London, Mrs. Kantz, Messrs. P. Le Prevost and H. Le Prevost.

Per *Thales*, from Swatow, Mr. Cameron, Dr. McDougall and Mr. A. D. Cruz Roza.

Per *Nuen Tung*, from Sydney, Messrs. Behrens, Gleichmann, M. L. Steinson, Miss Edith Steinson, Miss Yauli Steinson, and Mr. Lewis Steinson.

Per *Nippon Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. K. Matsuda, Capt. and Mrs. C. H. Bath and child, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Fernald, Major and Mrs. L. M. Maus, Mr. and Mrs. A. Rosenthal and two children, Mrs. F. Morton and son, Mrs. J. C. Howe, Mrs. Wm. Whaley, Misses M. E. Norton, I. Finlay, C. E. Finlay, M. Maus, L. Maus, Prof. Perry Hayne, Captain J. Austen, Messrs. C. H. King, Oscar Sutro, E. C. Newcomb, L. C. Carlton, J. H. King, H. U. Jeffries, R. O. Rutherford, G. F. Fry, A. D. Niskorn and F. R. Wardle.

DEPARTED.

Per *Hiroshima Maru*, from Hongkong, for Bombay, &c., Mrs. Miss and Master Lester, Messrs. J. Richardson, M. J. Shephardson, N. Moran, A. Murchison and Mr. and Mrs. Jaffer.

Per *Bengal*, from Yokohama, for Singapore, Mrs. Cleeve, two children and infant; from Shanghai, Mr. Hernberg; for Brindisi, Mr. Friedlandsky; for London, Comdr. Winnington Ingram, R.N., Messrs. G. S. Lapsley, A. Stewart, F. M. Boisey, R. Allen, J. Bath, C. Norby, J. C. Roper, J. Crawford, C. Knowles, A. Thompson, W. Howard, A. Howell and E. Dee; from Hongkong, Mr. E. White, Mrs. Cumisky and infant, Privates Page and Drury, Mrs. Parfit and children, Mrs. Razavet, child and infant; for Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Mehta and two children, Messrs. Emile de Philippi and Messrs. Davis (2); from Yokohama, for Bombay, Rev. L. M. Haslope.

Per *Rosetta Maru*, from Hongkong, for Nagasaki, &c., Mr. W. Takuno, Mrs. Glassmann, Mr. S. Mori, Miss H. Odzen, Mr. Y. Komine, Mrs. Walker, Misses H. and M. Darley, Messrs. Wright, P. Baladon, W. Smith, Miss E. Auberson, Mrs. S. Bayce, Mr. Sweet, Mr. and Mrs. T. Atherton, Messrs. Hikokuro, Takayama, S. Yoshida, Lieut. McDonnell, Dr. A. E. McDonnell, Lady Gordon, Messrs. Howes, L. M. Robbins, K. Morita, Miss T. Koyama, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad, Misses Schwabe, K. Numata, Mr. O. Yoshimura, Mrs. M. Horuguchi and Mrs. Kernan and child.

Per *Kasuga Maru*, from Hongkong, for Australia, &c., Mr. Wm. Simpson, Mr. C. J. Campbell, Mrs. M. Cruse and two sons, Mr. R. H. Rycroft, Mr. C. Domery, Mr. W. A. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, Miss Barton, Mrs. Perry, Mr. W. A. Fully, Misses Perry (3), Misses A. and M. Fully (2), Mrs. and Miss Paul, Mr. A. E. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Frankland, Mr. A. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Shower, Miss Brown, Mr. C. Ribard, Mrs. A. E. Fisher, Mrs. Ohnishi, Mr. M. Gomez, Mrs. and Master Jones, Col. Heizmann, Mr. C. D. Watts, Mr. and Mrs. Williams and three children, Mrs. J. Eshritu, Mr. D. Henderson, Mr. W. A. Pruitt, Mr. C. J. Price, Mr. and Mrs. M. Smith, Mrs. Richards and infant, Mr. E. U. Finckh, Mr. A. E. Richards, Mr. Geo. Stephens, Mr. W. Smith, Capt. G. T. Napier, Mr. W. M. Rice and Major Brown, B.A.M.C.

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Per *China*, for Shanghai, Mr. Ellis Kadoorie, Comdr. R. R. Ingersoll, U.S.N., Major and Mrs. Ricketts and infant, Mrs. Anstay, Messrs. J. S.

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Per *Preussen*, from Hongkong, for St. Miss Florence St. John; for Colombo St. John; for Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. E. Messrs. A. Bune, H. Schottlaender, Melchers, Chr. Meyer, Mrs. Horwitz and

Andreesen; for London, Mrs. Holton, John, Misses N. St. John, Dorothee St. Vera St. John, and Mrs. J. Jackson and from Japan, for Singapore, Messrs. Nardin and Geo. W. Lewis; for Port Capt. Mauler and Schwickert; for Gen and Mrs. H. Schmelzer and child, Mr. G. Toppe, Messrs. Alfred Schmidt, C. Qual and Wilhelm Fleissner; for London, Mr. ridge and Mr. and Mrs. Saxton; from Shich for Singapore, Messrs. Pepper and Mat Port Said, Capt. Cosulich v. Recino; for Capt. Hofmeier and Graf Spee, Messrs. Spiering, Jobst, Koeser, Jaeger, Dr. Me

haus, Messrs. Reicewitsch, von Gager, ting, Gröner, Herrmann, Schütte, F. Bene, Saxer, Bach, Nickel, Capt. E. I. and W. van Duyer; for London, Messrs. and J. Ferguson; for Bremen, Mr. Müller, Miss Klara Ulbert.

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Per *Inaba Maru*, for London, &c., General and Mrs. C. Crespo, Capt. C. I.J.N., Messrs. W. Beck, I. Noda, H. M. nami, O. Watanabe, T. Muchizuki, H. K. M. Hashiguchi, Mr. and Mrs. Kook, Dr. C. Powell, Messrs. T. Nagai, Kayabe, A. B. zer, E. W. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. J. Kennedy, Misses Kennedy (2), Miss Kathleen, Master Reggie Jones, Mr. and Mrs. H. Master John Clark, Messrs. H. R. Brown, A. Ballantine, L. Derowinter, A. Vandoe J. Sarens, T. Billiert, F. Debra, L. Moor M. Lonwarek, H. Hoskins, Van Hoeydonck F. Gys.

Per *Loongsang*, for Manila, Messrs. A. V. Valencia and E. Nazario.

Per *Ceylon*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. D. Beatty, W. Peacock, A. Wrightson, and C. R. Wynter; for London, Mrs. Huk, Miss Robins, Messrs. J. L. and T. Davis; for London, from Shanghai, Mrs. Deighton Braysher, Messrs. W. H. I. and W. Dunnett; from Yokohama, Mrs. Messrs. P. and H. Le Prevost.

Per *Diamante*, for Manila, Major Niskern, Miss M. E. Norton, Misses F. (2), Mrs. J. C. Howe, Mrs. Jarvis, Mrs. Ely, Capt. and Mrs. Barth and child, Mrs. F. H. Hyndman, Messrs. J. Monteiro, Changco, Y. Jacobs, C. Lopez, Mr. and A. Rosenthal and child, Mr. Yukichi Mrs. Ito Sakata, Messrs. C. Sclesinger and Sutro.

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no notion of paying the price that the Chinese owners asked for these lands, and the owners found so little chance of holding out on appeal, that they took what they could get and many of them have gone away and transferred their money with them. On the mainland to which they have removed, they are not giving the Japanese a reputation for fair dealing.

THE CAMPHOR QUESTION.

The foreign houses that controlled the camphor output in other years established distilling-plants at convenient points, which represented to them a charge on capital account amounting to about £50,000. While not intending to have a redressable grievance, the government took over the camphor industry, which would entitle them to anything but the loss of the goodwill which had been a valuable asset to them in that business, the distillers felt that they had vested rights in the plants which were tangible and obvious and must not be ignored. Recognition has not yet come, although the government is giving 150 per cent. profit on camphor which foreign houses formerly enjoyed.

A SMART TRICK.

In view of the government's good fortune, some adverse comment is heard on the way it operated its contract. All the camphor is pledged to a London banking house at a price which insures the government a profit of 54 per cent. more than £5, per picul on an annual output of 40,000 piculs. The Londoner might be supposed he had a monopoly of the camphor market, since seven-eighths of the world's production comes from Formosa, had he not since learned that beneath his ground-floor there is a basement for a by-product known as camphor oil, not specified in the contract, from which a Japanese company headed by Baron Hori is said to extract from 6,000,000 to 8,000,000 picul of camphor every year.

OPPIUM AND TEA.

Opium was farmed out under the old government, so that conditions are not essentially different from what they were. Its importation is restricted to northern ports, as are the exports of camphor, and an effort is made to control its use by license. About 140,000 persons have paid fees to the government for the privilege of smoking it, being 5.29 per cent. of the population. Tea exports, nearly all to the United States, amount in value close to \$600,000 per year. There is no other article of export of nearly that value, camphor coming next, with an export value quite 60 per cent. less. Tea promises to continue to hold the lead, in spite of large possibilities in sugar, hemp, coal and rice. The movement of trade by way of Japan instead of through Amoy, indicates a tendency which may grow into something much stronger whenever Japan may decide that it is hopeless to look for a foothold in Fukien Province, and that therefore the shipments of Formosan tea heretofore prepared at Amoy may better be made from a port in Japan. An export duty has already been imposed of 60 sen per picul, equivalent to less than one-quarter cent gold per pound, on all shipments except in Japanese bottoms, which may carry tea duty free. Since home subsidies have driven off the only steamship line not Japanese which handled Formosan cargoes, the duty so far is merely nominal. The ingenuity that has worked for the Japanese alone will doubtless be equal to any demands that the future may make upon it in furtherance of the same policy. There will be no room for foreigners in Formosa when that policy shall have time to accomplish its logical purposes. It already includes, in addition to the large operations mentioned, or it is about to comprise, small local enterprises in which foreigners were interested, such as an ice-house, a rice-mill and a tug-boat company. Formosa threatens to be for the Japanese, with all the accessories pertaining thereto, if only native colonists enough can be induced to come in.

A POLITIC GOVERNOR.

The man to whom has been entrusted the administration of the colony, Dr. Goto Shumpei, seems well-fitted for his task, both by temperament and ambition. Without previous official experience, he is certainly carrying forward what he conceives to be the imperial will with an assiduity betokening a possible willingness to shine at Tokyo after he shall have achieved acknowledged greatness at Tamsui. Whatever may have been the

possibilities before him in the field of medicine which he originally entered, he is missing no tricks in the game of politics. An instance of his versatility was furnished at the opening of the new dockyard at Foochow. That day he had Chinese listeners. He devoted himself to them as if their interests had always appealed to him, on grounds both of personal sympathy and of national relationship. His speech as reported classed the Chinese and Japanese as natural allies, who should join their energies to preserve the Orient from the contamination of the white-skinned races. He alluded to the common origin of the two peoples, to similarities in their modes of life, in their religions and in their aspirations, and he declared that the great contest of the future would be for supremacy between the white and the yellow races. It was alike the duty and interest of China and Japan, he argued, as nations of the same blood, to unite against the white peril now approaching both lands, and to subdue and drive it back. If he had been pleading with China to join Japan in making war upon Europe, his language could hardly have been stronger or have sounded more impassioned, according to those who heard it. With every allowance for the occasion which induced the speech, his presumption on the ignorance of the audience he was addressing regarding the Chinese exodus from Formosa and of his instrumentality in forcing it, struck the Chinese as not lacking in audacity, whatever they may have thought of the other qualities of the speech. It seems incredible that anyone can delude himself respecting the Chinese aversion to things Japanese here, which are hated not less than they are feared. The exodus represents the general sentiment. Those who remain either cannot afford to go away or they are putting off departure merely until they can dispose of their property interests. In speech among themselves they refer to the Japanese as *hoana*, meaning barbarians, or *chihun*, raw barbarians, or less disrespectfully as *wojin*, little men or dwarfs. In addressing one they say *taijin*, great man. One is impressed with the refinement of the humour of the Chinese coolie when he hears him hailing a Japanese coolie by the term.

THE ABORIGINES.

The Japanese have not yet seen fit to disregard what they are pleased to call the interests and rights of the aborigines. These are the people who occupy the uplands and mount ins, of which they have had sole possession for centuries. The earliest settlers found them there and their tenure has never been disturbed. Their territory, indeed, has not even been fully explored. No one can tell how many tribes of them there may be or their numbers. It is known that they prize the heads of Chinese as trophies. Japanese experience with them indicates their disposition to treat intrusion from that quarter in the same way. They are said to regard the whites as friends. A few missionaries have ventured among some of them, and while they have come back safe, they have not recommended their friends to go among them anticipating a pleasurable visit. They seem to be of Malayan rather than of Chinese origin, although they have occupied the land so long as to have developed characteristics distinctively their own. Among some of the tribes in the lower hills it is probable that the Dutch had relations in the brief sovereignty of that people over a portion of the coast more than 25 years ago. Traces yet appear occasionally of that strain of blood and cast of feature. The occupants of the mountains, whose peaks gleam with snow at all seasons, have never mingled with foreign settlers.

THE JAPANESE ATTITUDE TOWARD THEM.

Lowland tribes come into more or less contact with the authorities because their territory must be entered or crossed to reach the camphor forests. They also do a little trading. Brigandage, however, is more to their liking, and they are credited also with the usual border vices. The Japanese have found it expedient to make a treaty with them, or an agreement amounting to the same thing, by which in return for a promise by them to commit no outlawry on the civilised side of the border, the authorities will not attempt to interfere with what they may wish to do on the other side. Along portions of the border which such agreement covers, the natives observe their obligations, and disturbance rarely occurs.

Jurisdiction entirely separate is maintained in the territory thus divided. Within 25 miles of this settlement a fine new road ends in a field because there the boundary line of a native tribe passes. No armed Japanese is permitted to cross that line, and the tribesmen may put any stranger from their land, whether he is armed or not. In sections not covered by agreement, troops must always be on watch for raids, which often result in the pillage of a settlement and sometimes in the destruction of property, as well as in slaughter and robbery. It is said that 350 house houses have been burned in that way in the last year, and 35 settlers shot. Troops often encounter or overtake the raiders. There have been 12 soldiers killed in the resulting engagement, one of them an officer. The estimated number of bandits killed is 300.

A TEMPORARY PACT.

Where colonial affairs shall pass beyond the stage of experiment, the Japanese may be unwilling to submit to a denial of access to any part of the territory that they consider their own. But in gathering to their own profit the established resources of the island, in building railroads, highways and harbours, in remodelling Chinese settlements to suit a tidier taste, and in bringing about an orderly and well regulated administration of affairs they have so large an immediate contract that they are content to stand in with the tribes that will agree not to interfere with them and to respect certain property rights, rather than to attempt to use at this time authority which they believe to be rightfully theirs, but the assertion of which prematurely might throw the entire island into disorder.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 29th May.

NEW TAX FOR CANTON.

As a treaty of peace is about to be finally concluded, by which the Chinese government has agreed to pay a heavy indemnity, and as a lot of reforms are promised, such as the establishment of English and Chinese schools, the remodelling of the army and navy, the opening of mines, and the construction of railways, &c., the problem is where is the money to come from to carry out all these things. The government is in straitened circumstances, and in urgent need of money. So about a fortnight ago there was a large and representative meeting of officials and gentry in the Kwong Nga College to discuss the best modes of raising money; some officials suggested that the *lekin* and salt revenue might be augmented, others suggested that a poll-tax might be imposed up to 50 cents each annually, others that the taxes on fields might be increased, and others again that a tax on houses and shops might be a feasible plan. The latter proposal was adopted, and on the 23rd inst. the Board of Reorganisation issued a notification to the effect that an office will be established in the city to look after the house-tax, that the prefect, the magistrates and gentry will meet there to consider and frame some rules for collecting the tax, and that the officials of all the districts shall be called upon to furnish the necessary information, to enable them to form an exact estimate.

THE CONSUMPTION OF WATER.

About a week ago some officials, by order of the Viceroy no doubt, sent their subordinates round into the city to find out from every house and shop what quantity of fresh and river water the inhabitants used daily, and also its cost. The result is that the total expenditure for fresh and river water is put at over \$700 daily. I think this cannot be correct, as most of the people in Canton have wells in their houses, from which they draw the water, and if water be laid to their houses the amount used would come to more than the figures above quoted, and it would be quite a profitable concern to the water syndicate.

DANGEROUS DRAGONS.

On the 18th inst. the districts of Chingyuan and its surroundings were alarmingly flooded by the recent rains, and the water rose from 40 to 50 feet above the ground, a large number of houses collapsing, paddy fields being destroyed, and several hundreds of people drowned. Some natives said that it was the water dragon turn-

ing its tail which caused such devastation, for two dragons were seen in the Shekwoo Lake, in the district of Fayuin, during a wild squall, flying upwards, one throwing out black vapour from its mouth and the other white vapour.

VICEROY MAKING A SWEEP OF OFFICIALS.

It is reported that the energetic old Viceroy Tao Mu has memorialised against and recommended the degradation of 142 officials under him, high and low, for various reasons of course. It is a pretty large sweep, such as has never been made before by any of his predecessors. To save the faces of some of the big ones he recommended them to send in their applications for sick leave or for transference;

THE STEAMER-WHARF DISPUTE.

The question as to the right of constructing the steamer-wharf in Kee Cheong Street, in which one Ho Fu Nin is the party against whom the inhabitants of the thirty-two streets have lodged their protest, is, I believe, settled for the time being, as a notification has been issued by the officials concerned in the investigation to the effect that the river being as wide as 60 cheongs or more, the said Ho Fu Nin has a perfect right to construct a wharf there, that, as the canal is over 30 feet wide, it causes no obstruction to the boat-traffic or the conveyance of cargo, that it would be no impediment to the filling up of an embankment along the river-front by and by, and that the inhabitants must not offer any obstruction.

THE "SUNCHOW"-"HUNG FEI" COLLISION.

The question of collision between the steam-launches *Sunchow* and *Hung Fei* is also at an end, and Leong-yon, owner of the former, has won the day. The assessors held that the captain of the *Hung Fei* was to blame for having violated the rules of navigation in not keeping to the proper route, which brought on the collision. By order of the Viceroy the captain and crew of the launch are to be punished, and are ordered to pay damages and an indemnity for the lives lost.

A CANARD ABOUT KANG YU-WEI.

It is rumoured that Kang Yu-wei has sent a letter from Singapore to his nephew in the country, saying that he has offered to the Empress Dowager, against whom he is said to have sinned, \$800,000, to redeem his sin, and \$800,000 as a contribution to the government, and that the *Pao Hwang Hwei* (the Society for the Protection of the Emperor) is to contribute \$10,000,000 to the government as a recompense for its past favour. I am sure no one would believe such a story. Where has Kang Yu-wei so much money?

FLEEING CANTON.

An Imperial order has been sent to the Viceroys of all the provinces to make arrangements to pay the indemnity of 450 million taels. The Viceroys and Governors are commanded to curtail their expenses and increase the taxes. In the case of *lekin*, only one-third of which now goes to the Government, and two-thirds to the officials' private purse, an order is now given that all revenues of whatever description must go to the Government. Canton is considered by the northerners as one of the richest provinces in China, and as she has no representative in the Imperial Court to put in a word or two for her, she has to pay more than any other province, while the others plead poverty. When H.E. Li Hung-chang in Canton was told of the contribution sent from Canton to Peking annually, he was actually taken by surprise and promised to get it reduced.

A European firm at Penang, says the *Penang Gazette*, paid away a Government note for \$50, which turned out to be a genuine \$10 note manufactured into a fraudulent \$50 one. They immediately refunded the \$50 and handed the note over to the Superintendent of Police. Eventually the note was passed to the Assistant Treasurer. This is said to be the first case of its kind, as regards Government notes, and has given rise to the following questions:—Has the firm a right to retain or re-obtain possession of the defaced note? Has the firm a right to demand from Government the original face value of the note, namely \$10? It is understood the Solicitor-General, to whom the matter was referred, has decided both questions in the negative.

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 19th May.

GERMANY DEFENDS HER CONVERTS.

Chang Lok, a district about 40 miles distant from here, and the scene of last year's disturbances, has lately indulged again in the pastime of plundering several native converts' houses. As the latter belong to the flock of the German mission, the German Consul wired a protest to the Viceroy of the province.

H.I.G.M.S. *Geier* also arrived here yesterday, ostensibly on a visit, but with a view, of course, to backing up the claims which are sure to follow. I have no doubt this constant plundering of native Christians will sooner or later be stopped, but in the meantime the Chinese officials have to pay for the outrages committed in their respective districts.

THE ITALIAN MAN-OF-WAR

Stromboli paid us a visit on the 14th inst., and after 5 days' stay left for the North.

H.M.S. "LIZARD"

arrived in here from Hongkong on the 18th inst., and left again for South on the 19th.

SPORT.

A cricket match was arranged and played yesterday between the Swatow C. C. and H.M.S. *Lizard*. After a splendid game the local team won the match by four runs. The Shanghai Cricket team is said to intend paying us a visit in the course of the summer. It is hoped this is true, for in that case we shall have the rare opportunity of witnessing a really good match.

20th May.

THE CHANG LOK OUTRAGE.

Three waiyaens deputed by the Viceroy have arrived here from Canton to settle the dispute that has arisen at Chang Lok. H.I.G.M.S. *Geier* left to-day for Amoy.

THE "HONG AN'S" CLAIM SATISFIED.

For the outrage committed on the *Hong An*, her owners put in a claim for \$150. After allowing a sufficient time to elapse, the Tatapon people decided to pay the claim, but not in full; they merely gave \$100, with which, however, the owners of *Hong An* are contented. This finally closes the incident.

ICE.

From this date the Swatow Ice Factory, owned by Messrs. Bradley & Co., is supplying ice at two cents per pound. This being our pioneer ice factory, it is hoped that it will pay its enterprising owners.

23rd May.

MORE ATTACKS ON NATIVE CHRISTIANS.

Very authentic information reached me to-day, to the effect that in the district of Ho Yuan, a place very thickly inhabited by converts, placards of an inciting nature had been posted by a man named Ling Ting. This worthy, presumably an official, calls upon the people to kill the native Christians or drive them out of the district of Ho Yuan. The placards, which bear the signature of Ling Ting, inform the people that by "Imperial command" they are to exterminate all the native converts by the 8th of this moon. This date falls to-morrow, and I merely wonder if the "Imperial order" will be carried out.

In view of the unsettled state of affairs up North, it is rather surprising to find the Chinese down south misbehaving themselves towards the native Christians, who are the proteges of the various missionaries. As usual, the mandarins are caught napping, and they only awaken when it is too late.

The commercial men of Manila have decided to form an exchange for the sale of produce, bonds, etc. The formation of the exchange was set on foot by Mr. Walter A. Fitton and Mr. J. T. Macleod, and there was an immediate response from the leading commercial firms, and business men of the city. For the present fifty chairs only will be sold at a cost of \$200 (Mex.) each. The annual subscription will be \$100 each. Forty subscriptions for chairs have already been received from the leading firms and business men, and it has been decided to start the Exchange at once with this number. The list has been closed, and a meeting of chairholders will be held to frame rules and bye-laws, elect officers, etc.

PEKING.

Peking, 15th May.

THE INDEMNITY QUESTION

is being slowly worked out. The delay has not been due to the Chinese, but to the foreign Ministers, who have had to make up their estimates and agree amongst themselves as to the principles and policy to be carried out. It is only a few days ago that they were able to announce to the Chinese Plenipotentiaries the amount they would demand—some Tls. 450,000,000. On the 12th the official reply of the Chinese was handed in. An earnest appeal is made that the amount demanded be reduced, as China is unable to pay a large indemnity. The method by which payment is proposed to be made is as follows:—An instalment of Tls. 15,000,000 annually will be paid for 30 years, and will be raised from certain funds, Tls. 10,000,000 from the salt revenues, Tls. 3,000,000 from the native Customs and Tls. 2,000,000 from the *lekin*.

A LOAN?

While these are the proposals of the Plenipotentiaries it is known that there was a telegram from Hsian sanctioning the raising of a loan at 5 per cent., and that the payment of the indemnity should extend over 50 years, interests being provided for. The actual proposal sent in is much more favourable to China, and if her interests be the interests of the Powers her proposals will be accepted. If so, the actual amount she will pay out will be the Tls. 15,000,000 per annum, minus the Tls. 7,000,000 which she proposes to raise for herself from advancing the tariff rates. In the meantime the reply of the Home Governments is being awaited.

THE COURT EXPECTED.

There are two things that seem to lead to the belief that the Court will think of returning to Peking as soon as possible. The first is that the indemnities are made up to the 1st of July, and it is to the interests of the Chinese Government to see that no pretext be left for further occupation of Peking. The other fact is that an emissary named Tsui was sent secretly by the Court to spy out the land, and he returned via Honan to report to the Empress direct. The feeling here at present is that the reasons for return so far outweigh any that can be given for delaying that it is quite expected the Court will return.—*N.-C. Daily News*.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *P. & T. Times* of the 18th May:—

The Roman Catholic Cathedral in the Native City is being rebuilt.

Lieut. Maxwell, 27th Bombay Infantry, is appointed Railway Staff Officer at Yangtsun.

On the departure of the Ulwar and Bikanir Imperial Service Troops, the 6th Burma Battalion will take up their quarters in the West Village.

We hear that Tang Shao-chuan, Director of Imperial Railway, is one of the mission appointed to visit Japan and convey Chinese apologies for the late outbreak.

Capt. Grimston succeeds Capt. Ray as D.A.A.G. in Tientsin. Capt. Ray is returning to India to take up his new post in the Intelligence Branch of the Quarter-Master General's Department.

The Russians have been clearing out all Chinese from their settlement on the opposite side of the river, who have not handed in their title-deeds and obtained a Russian certificate proving their right to remain.

Six halting places in Shansi and twenty-one in Honan have been arranged for the returning Court, each one of which will have to furnish Tls. 70,000 for the repairing of the road and erection of suitable accommodation, but so far nothing has been said about the route in Chihli.

The new road to the City along the Bund promises to be a fine highway when completed, but the Japanese section is progressing slowly, while the French are already planting trees on theirs. It is a pity good stone in place of broken brick cannot be obtained for its construction.

Lieut. Thompson, I.M.S., takes charge of the Hongkong Regiment in addition to his other duties, and Capt. Cleveland, I.M.S., has been appointed Staff-Surgeon (Tientsin) in suc-

cluded his report with this singularly modest but most prophetic paragraph: He trusted that even should the suggestions be found undesirable or impracticable his report would show the necessity for strong and complete measures of sanitation, and he trusted that they would be undertaken for the immediate benefit of the public health without waiting for the necessity to be demonstrated by the irresistible logic of a severe epidemic. Almost all of these matters were crying needs of Hongkong more than 19 years after the above report had been written, and in moving the resolutions standing in his name, he was only reiterating the recommendations of one of the highest authorities in sanitation in Great Britain.

Mr. E. OSBORNE, in seconding the first resolution, remarked that as regarded open spaces in the city what Dr. Clark had recommended was only what every prudent man would do.

With a slight modification the first motion of Dr. Clark was agreed to.

On the second motion, that of recommending the Government to utilise all the fresh water which ran to waste in the trained and un-trained nullahs of the city by building dams and forming tanks for the automatic flushing of the sewers and water drains, Dr. CLARK said they must take to heart the importunate widow. The recommendation, which he now brought before them, was made by Mr. Osbert Chadwick in 1882, in a report which was presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of Her late Majesty. Previous to this report the late Dr. Ayres, Colonial Surgeon, had, in 1875, submitted a similar report on the sanitary condition of the Colony, but unfortunately, he appeared to have very soon lost heart and given up the struggle. What the Sanitary Board must do, Dr. Clark contended, was to importune for these sanitary reforms, which had been pointed out over and over again during these past five and twenty years. As an illustration of what he meant, he might tell the Board that Mr. Chadwick, who was sent as Sanitary Commissioner to consider the sanitary condition of the Colony, made the following recommendations. He recommended that continuous back alleys should be insisted upon. They had not got that yet in this Colony. He recommended that six hundred cubic feet of air space per head should be required in all rooms sub-divided by cubicles. The present law only required four hundred. He recommended that the ground surfaces of all dwellings should be concreted. This was not required until after the great epidemic of 1894. He recommended the formation of an improvement fund to carry out larger sanitary schemes, such as the purchase of insanitary properties and their demolition, and the acquisition of all privately owned public latrines. A similar scheme was recommended by the Board, on the initiation of the Vice-President a year or two ago. He recommended the erection of model dwellings. The Board had this matter again before them now. He recommended that all roads and drains should be prepared before any building lots were sold. The speaker (Dr. Clark) fancied that the residents of Conduit Road might have something to say on this subject. He recommended flushing tanks for sewers to be filled by the flow in the nullahs should be erected. This was the subject matter of the present resolution. He recommended that all existing public latrines should be acquired by Government and be completely reconstructed and greatly increased. The increase in number was practically commenced last year. He recommended that urinals also were greatly needed. There were still but four inadequate urinals in the whole City. He recommended that the nuisance caused by hawkers squatting in the public streets should be abated. This subject has also been recently discussed by the Board. He recommended that the Market accommodation should be increased, as it was lamentably deficient, and finally he recommended that public bath-houses were much wanted, and that they should be furnished with a good supply of hot water. Mr. Chadwick concluded his report with this singularly modest but most prophetic sentence: "I trust that even should the suggestions be found undesirable or impracticable my report will show the necessity

for strong and complete measures of sanitation, and I trust that they will be undertaken for the immediate benefit of the public health without waiting for the necessity to be demonstrated by the irresistible logic of a severe epidemic." The logic came twelve years later, when the necessity for these reforms was demonstrated by an outbreak of bubonic plague in epidemic form. Almost all these matters were crying needs in Hongkong nineteen years after this report was written. His resolution was only a repetition of Mr. Chadwick's recommendation. The sewers and drains of the City were most offensive. He thought they would all admit that, and he suggested that it was quite possible that the Reclamation scheme had had something to do with this. The sewers and drains ought to be flushed, and the large quantities of water that ran to waste down the hillside and down the nullahs ought to be utilised to a large extent for this purpose.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that there were great difficulties in the way, as the time of flushing was during the dry season, and it would be useless for them to make provisions for flushing during the wet season. The streams that could be utilised in the dry season were few and comparatively small, and, of course, there was always the difficulty of multiplying the number of the drains, which would in the ordinary way be conveyed from the different points to the different inlets to the drainage system.

The Hon. F. H. MAY thought that the observation of the Medical Officer of Health was more or less an indictment against the Government, at least it might be interpreted as such. As a result of these reports by Mr. Chadwick, a tremendously drastic measure was drafted, known as the Public Health Bill, 1887. If that measure, the original draft of which he perused some time ago, had been adopted, the Colony would have been in a better position to-day than it was, and in a better position than it would be for some time to come. If they referred to the proceedings of the Legislative Council, they would find that it was emasculated by the opposition of unofficial members of the Council, backed, he had no doubt, by public opinion outside, who thought that matters were going a little too far. After the plague epidemic of 1894, when it was desired to increase the Sanitary legislation, they had the Closing of Houses and Insanitary Property Act of 1894. The backbone was taken out of that Bill, in the Legislative Council, also by the unofficial members. In both these bills there were stringent provisions to restrict the height of houses, and everybody who knew the City knew that its greatest curse was its surface crowding. Even a strong man like Mr. Francis Cooper, the strongest man that the Public Works Department had ever seen and the strongest man the Colony had ever seen, even he was unable to get through the Legislative Council the original restrictions for the excessive height of houses in 1894. Then they came to their last measure, the Bill of 1898, and they knew, as well as he did, that, had it not been for the opposition in a certain quarter, that Bill would have been better than it was. There were three times in the history of the Colony since 1887, since the report of Mr. Chadwick was written, that the Legislature had endeavoured to legislate upon that particular point and had failed. They all knew that it was very difficult in Sanitary legislation to legislate in the teeth of public opinion, and when those at the Legislative Council, who were supposed to represent public opinion, opposed it, it was not surprising the Government made concessions and gave way. If any member would take the trouble to look up the original deed, and compare it with the bill on the Statute Book, he was sure they would be surprised.

Dr. CLARK said he had read very carefully Hansard's reports on these Bills, and he was fully aware where the opposition came from, and that was why he said they must be importunate. They must be persistent and ask and ask until they got what they wanted. Their repeated requests for a refuse-destructor was one illustration of this. They all knew where the opposition came from. Such opposition did not exist only in this Colony, it came from the same quarter all over the world. A man, when his pocket was affected, naturally wished

to protect it, and he (Dr. Clark) questioned very much whether, as the Vice-President had suggested, the opposition was a true indication of public opinion. He thought that public opinion generally was in favour of Sanitary Reforms, and, although public opinion might not always be represented by public representatives, yet he thought the public would be with the Board, and was with the Board in the question of the height of buildings and in this question of the improvement of the sewers. He certainly did not wish what he had said to be taken as an indictment against the Government. It was the result of the persistent opposition to the Government reforms, and he thought it was time some drastic measure was resorted to whatever the opposition might be.

Mr. OSBORNE remarked that very little good would ensue from wrangling over the past; they had to look to the future. The Government had the strength, if they cared to use it, to carry through any measure they pleased, in spite of opposition, and he was certain that any measure which they proposed do stamp out plague would have the support of the community.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. CHATHAM, and carried.

THE FLUSHING OF THE DRAINS.

Dr. CLARK moved his third resolution on the question of the flushing of the sewers and storm-water drains of the city with sea water pumped from the harbour to suitable storage tanks.

Dr. BELL seconded and the President remarked that in the case of sea water, it had to be pumped up to a certain height before it would run down. The capital cost of such a scheme would be something like \$300,000 and the expenditure about \$10,000 a year. The cost was too great for the results which would be attained.

Hon. F. H. MAY referred to what he called the extremely able report of Mr. Cooper on the water supply of the Colony. That gentleman was a man who when he put his hand to paper generally knew what he was writing about. He said if they wished to flush their sewers they should turn on more fresh water, and not salt water, and he (the speaker) had great confidence in Mr. Cooper, and believed in what he said. He therefore opposed the resolution.

Mr. OSBORNE said that if Mr. Cooper was responsible for the separate system of drainage then, he was sure very few people would endorse the remarks that had fallen from the Vice-President against Mr. Cooper. The separate systems of drainage would be very excellent no doubt under certain circumstances, but under the circumstances that prevailed in Hongkong, it was a nuisance and a curse. The only way in which these drains could be flushed in the dry season was by salt water, and if they waited till the scouring of more fresh water, then he was sure that no gentleman at the Board would live to see the day when flushing by fresh water would take place. The whole of the present water supply would shortly be required for domestic purposes.

Dr. CLARK—Nearly every coast-port town in Great Britain finds it worth while to pump sea-water for road watering and flushing. All the spare fresh water that they could collect would be required in a very few years for the large population that would occupy the Praya East Reclamation—estimated by the originator of the scheme at 150,000 persons.

The Hon. F. H. MAY—I have very great respect for Mr. Osborne, but if I were to cross-examine him on Mr. Cooper's and Mr. Chadwick's report I would be surprised to find he knew anything about it at all.

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried. Dr. Clark, Dr. Bell, Messrs. E. Osborne, Chan A Fook and Fung Wa Chuen voted in its favour, and Hon. W. Chatham, Captain May and Mr. A. W. Brewin voted against it.

Dr. CLARK then moved—That the Government be requested to consider the advisability of trapping all inlets to the storm-water drains, in view of the fact that the "Report on the latrine and urinal accommodation of the city and its connection with the fouling of the storm-water drains" forwarded to the Government in 1899, showed that the contents of the

sto in water drains are as foul and in some cases even fouler than the contents of the sewers.

Mr. CHAN A FOOK seconded.

Mr. OSBORNE said that, notwithstanding his inexperience or ignorance of the subject of separate drainage, he must support Dr. Clark's proposal. He thought that if the author of the separate system had seen what it was to lead to, he himself would never have recommended it.

Hon. W. CHATHAM said there had been a certain steady decrease in the death-rate which must be ascribed to something. He should imagine that the separate system had had some effect in decreasing the death-rate. He thought it must be admitted that the separate system was a necessity in this Colony and was bound to be of great benefit to the health of the Colony.

This was carried on a vote.

Mr. BREWIN did not vote, stating: "I know nothing about the matter."

THE HEALTH OF THE COLONY.

The mortality statistics submitted to the Board for the week ended 18th May showed 36.8 per 1,000 per annum as against 29.0 for the corresponding week of last year.

LIMEWASHING RETURN.

The limewashing return for May 13th showed that 3,351 houses had been cleansed during the last fortnight.

THE REMOVAL OF PLAGUE PATIENTS.

On the removal of plague patients from Wanchai, Shaukiwan and Quarry Bay, Mr. OSBORNE said he would like to say with regard to the ambulances in which the plague patients were removed, they should be of a better type. It had been brought to his notice that they were extremely uncomfortable, and there was every chance of a patient dying on his way from the house to the hospital.

Dr. CLARK said that they were building new ambulances, which were a great improvement on the old ones.

That completed the business.

THE PLAGUE.

28th May.

The latest reports to hand regarding the European patients suffering from plague, we are glad to state, go to show that all are progressing favourably, including Mr. Meek, who has taken a turn for the better, his temperature having gone down to 103½. Mr. Collins, we learn from one who visited him at his home in Caine Road yesterday, is practically out of danger.

Last week's figures were:—20 cases, 187 deaths. The full figures for the year are:—800 cases (774 Chinese, 16 other Asiatics, 10 Europeans), 748 deaths (733 Chinese, 11 other Asiatics, 4 Europeans).

30th May.

During the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday there were reported 33 fresh cases of plague (32 Chinese, one other Asiatic), and 29 deaths (all Chinese).

It is gratifying to report that so far no fresh European cases have occurred. Those in hospital are all doing well.

The latest victims are a Portuguese named C. da Cruz, 11, Battery Street, Yaumati, and his little daughter, aged seven years, both of whom died in Kennedy Town Hospital on the 28th inst. They were admitted on the previous day. Another daughter, a child of three, was removed to hospital yesterday morning suffering from plague. Da Cruz was a foreman in the Sanitary Department, and was stationed at Yaumati, where he was engaged to a certain extent in plague-work.

Later.

Since the above was written, we learn that Mrs. Willoughby, wife of an employee at the Cosmopolitan Docks, has been taken to Kennedy Town suffering from plague. She was admitted to the Hospital yesterday afternoon.

31st May.

During the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday there were reported 43 fresh cases of plague (38 Chinese, 3 other Asiatics, and 2 Europeans), with 38 deaths (35 Chinese, 3 other Asiatics). The corrected figures for the year are 906 cases (874 Chinese, 20 other Asiatics, 12 Europeans), and 846 deaths (827 Chinese, 15 other Asiatics, 4 Europeans).

Mr. H. Faunch, manager of the Praya East Hotel, is the latest European victim to plague. He and Mrs. Willoughby (whose illness from the disease we reported in our issue of yesterday morning) make the two fresh European cases mentioned in the last returns by the Sanitary Department.

All the other European patients continue to make satisfactory progress.

1st June.

Yesterday there were reported 30 fresh cases of plague (27 Chinese, 2 other Asiatics, one European), with 31 deaths (30 Chinese, one European).

Mr. H. Faunch, manager of the Praya East Hotel, who was admitted to hospital on Thursday, succumbed to the disease at 5.30 yesterday morning. The deceased was formerly in the British Navy, which he left to take up duties in H.M. Naval Yard. Afterwards he held an appointment in the Imperial Maritime Customs. The Praya East Hotel has been closed for a thorough cleansing and fumigation.

Mr. A. Cameron, a Portuguese employee of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, living at 7, Hollywood Road, has also contracted the disease, but in a mild form. He was admitted to hospital on Thursday, and was yesterday reported to be doing well.

John A. da Cruz, attached to the 22nd Bombay Infantry, and a Portuguese named Francisco Rios, residing at 42, Bridges Street, were taken to Kennedy Town Hospital yesterday morning suffering from plague.

Mr. Hawkes, of the Hongkong Dispensary, who was amongst the first Europeans attacked, has been discharged from hospital, and proceeds to Japan to recruit his health.

It may be noted that in 1894, the year in which 2,679 cases of plague were recorded in Hongkong, the European cases only amounted to eleven, two of the patients succumbing.

NEW DREDGER FOR HONGKONG

The Admiralty dredger *St. Enoch* arrived in the harbour at six o'clock on Thursday afternoon from Weihaiwei, in tow of H.M.S. *Endymion*, and anchored off the Naval Yard extension. The *St. Enoch*, which is to take up the work interrupted by the capsizing of the ill-starred *Canton River*, has been purchased from the Government by Messrs. Punchard, Lowther & Company, contractors for the extension of H.M. Naval Yard, and was formally handed over to her new owners on Thursday afternoon.

Like the *Canton River* dredger, the *St. Enoch* is of Scotch build, having been launched from the yard of Messrs. Simons and Co. at Renfrew, near Glasgow, for the Admiralty, a little over six years ago. She was sent to Portsmouth for her trials, which proved in every way satisfactory. From Portsmouth the *St. Enoch* went to Malta; thence, a little over two years ago, to Weihaiwei, where she has since been dredging. Her purchase by Messrs. Punchard, Lowther & Company having been completed, the vessel left Weihaiwei on the 25th inst. for Hongkong.

Although, taken all over, the *St. Enoch* is smaller than the *Canton River*, she possesses, in the matter of dredging, a very important superiority over the latter. The *Canton River* works to a depth of 40 feet, while the *St. Enoch* dredges to 40 feet light and 47 feet loaded. The arrangement of her buckets is also different from that of the *Canton River*. The latter vessel's buckets run out forward, but those of the *St. Enoch* run aft, and work at the rate of sixteen per minute. As each bucket (altogether there are about forty) has a capacity of one ton, dredging is thus carried on at the rate of sixteen tons per minute. The *St. Enoch* has a total carrying capacity of about 650 tons.

At a banquet to Mr. Doumer given by the Société d'Economie Industrielle at Paris a fortnight ago, the president of that body announced that it had contributed to the commercial exploitation of Yunnan. Mr. Doumer amid applause appealed to the Society for help in French Indo-Chinese enterprises. It is now stated that he will leave France for the East on the 13th July. At present he is busy with the organization of the Yunnan Railway Co.

JAPAN'S COLONIAL VENTURE.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Anping, Formosa, 20th May.

THE CHANGE IN FORMOSAN TRADE.

Japan is learning in Formosa that it is not all fun and profit to run a colony. How well the lesson may have been impressed is probably known only in the imperial councils in Tokyo, which may be regarded also as the sole repository of plans for the future. The policy of turning to Japanese account all the resources of the island has so subverted trade conditions previously existing that those who flourished under such conditions naturally view the situation with some bias. Camphor and opium have been taken in hand on government account, the tea exports are moving toward home channels, there will be little left for the foreigners to do in sugar in a few years, and subsidies to a Japanese steamship line have made rivalry in ocean business impossible. Foreign houses that could maintain branches here in an open field cannot stand competition with a government, and more than half of them have moved away. The exodus of Chinese capital has been general, in addition to the emigration of fully 50,000 people whose places have been taken, but not filled, by 20,000 Japanese at an outside estimate, of whom more than half are women. Although never worked as it might be, Formosa under Chinese control was always a profitable possession. There has been no productive development since the Japanese got it, and the annual deficiency has varied from \$300,000 to \$700,000. No improvement in this respect is in sight.

RELUCTANT CAPITAL.

Considering all that the government would do for its people, there is a noteworthy reluctance on the part of Japanese capital to embark in Formosan enterprise. Whether or not faith and investment may come in time, capital seems content just now to let the government bear all the burdens of development. The railroad which is to bring the two ends of the island within reach of each other by easy travel, instead of by the tedious and precarious means so far employed, is in course of construction with money voted by the Imperial Diet. It will not be built with the sum appropriated, 28,000,000 yen, but it may cost 45,000,000 yen, or approximately £4,500,000. When completed it will make accessible 230 miles of territory most of which is not now to be visited by any expeditious means, and it will afford the largest opportunity for practical tests of the storied fertility of Formosan soil for a great variety of products that can be well marketed.

GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGEMENT.

It will be necessary for the government to provide harbours as well as railways, if there is to be any considerable growth of commerce with the outer world. The roadsteads in which ships must lie that come here for trade are not only always inconvenient to land and often hopelessly out of reach of it in the light-draught boats which alone can go in and are to be trusted only in smooth waters, but they are in the track of the high winds that sweep this coast almost continually and that shipping men dread least when they have plenty of sea-room. Harbour improvements at Kielung and Tamsui in the North and at Takow in the South will cost as much as the railroads. Since the financial condition of Japan must make an end before many years of the distribution of subsidies and the extension of help to commercial ventures, which have already drawn heavily on the Chinese indemnity and other general funds, a bank has been organized to perform offices which it may soon be impolitic for the government to undertake directly. It is called the Bank of Formosa, and its avowed purpose is to exploit Formosa, develop trade and encourage industry. Formosan bonds, which cannot be placed elsewhere, get into the bank, which seems to flourish so well with that kind of security as to force the inference that the general government is behind it. The bank in its capacity as a private corporation is, of course, competent to do all sorts of things. A sugar-refining company, floated with its help, has developed, through the same encouraging agency, into an owner of large tracts of sugar lands. It will thus cultivate the cane as well as prepare it for consumers. The buyers had

cession to Major Reid, R.A.M.C. Capt. Cleveland's appointment will give great satisfaction to the many friends he has made in Tientsin.

A favourite eunuch of the Dowager's has recently arrived in Peking to view and really report on the exact state of affairs. Prince Ching is stated to have received him very warmly, as he says that all that he and Li Hung-chang have written to the Court has been discredited, and now the eunuch will be able to report that what they have said is correct. The eunuch professes great surprise at finding the Palaces still standing and everything so quiet, as he says the wildest tales have been current in Hsian concerning the violent doings of the foreign troops.

THE "HONGKONG JUNTA" AGAIN.

The *Manila Times* of the 23rd inst. gives details about a certain K. Engelskjön, a Norwegian, who was arrested on the previous evening and confined at Anda Station, pending an investigation of the charges against him.

A preliminary examination was given him on the 23rd and it developed, states the *Times*, that Engelskjön was one of a party of six who have acted as spies for the insurgents. The documents in question consist of letters received from the Philippine Junta at Hongkong addressed to Aguinaldo and the leading native officers of the insurrection. These letters had been sent by the Junta to him and some had been forwarded. Passes of all descriptions were among the documents. Some of these had been issued by Aguinaldo and nearly all the officials in the south had given him safeguards. These have been used for the past three years, and just what his business with the insurgents was has not as yet been developed.

At his preliminary examination Engelskjön stated that the reason that he did not inform the military authorities of his knowledge of the insurgents was because he thought that the United States was big enough to take care of itself.

Engelskjön was returned to his quarters at Anda jail and has expressed his desire to obtain legal advice to prepare his defence, which has been granted him.

Should further investigation prove as implicating as the first sight appears, Engelskjön may realise what it means to be convicted of being a spy in time of war, says the *Manila paper*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

MUNICIPAL FREEDOM IN HONGKONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
28th May.

SIR,—Can you or any of your public-spirited readers enlighten anxious inquirers after truth on some or all of the following queries:—

Is it true that there is no resident European medical man at the Kennedy Town Plague Hospital, and that the medico appointed is only able to attend once a day in regular routine, and further only when a case is very urgent, i.e. hopeless?

It is said that there are six resident Chinese physicians—*sic*. Is this true? Also that these gentlemen are picked for duty by shaking a pot with six slips of bamboo with the name of one of these physicians on each, and if the patient is able he chooses one slip—the physician whose name is drawn is the one to attend on that patient?

If there is no resident qualified medical man at the Plague Hospital, is it because the Government cannot afford the expense?

Is it true that a well known medico was offered the magnificent salary of \$250 a month to undertake the resident duty at the Plague Hospital, and of course abandon his own practice?

Is it true that the Government made a surplus of about \$550,000 over their estimate for land sales last year?

Is it true that the staff attendant on European sufferers from the plague consists of a ward-

master, a matron and a miscellaneous lot of coolies and boys, mostly untrained, and as able and willing to attend and nurse sick Europeans as they are to tell the truth twice consecutively?

Is it true that a European patient taken from the centre of the town, say at 11 a.m., by the ambulance corps, arrives at a little after noon, and unless his own doctor attends, may by good luck get medical attention about 5 p.m., or if not by 10 a.m. next morning?

If there be at the Plague Hospital but one wardmaster and one matron? Somebody responsible must believe them to be far above ordinary humanity to be able to work twenty-four hours a day for seven days a week.

Is it true that the night soil removed from private houses and public latrines is not disinfected before being carried away to be used for growing vegetables for European and Chinese consumption? This disinfection was done in 1894.

After all these queries and one remark, Mr Editor, I should like to add two of the latter. Sydney Smith said something to the effect that to stop railway collisions it was necessary that a Bishop should be killed in one, a Bishop being his idea of a great dignitary. In the same train of thought I began to wonder that before they adopted efficient measures to stop the plague it was necessary that some great local dignitary should — The thought is too horrible, Mr. Editor, so I shall try to banish it.

There are one or two rather persistent M.P.'s at home, who will be interested in the answers you or your readers can give. As the little tin gods that are located here are deaf and dumb, it might be more useful and save time and lives to put queries to the great Panjandrum himself in a place where he must listen and answer. In the meantime, have the Hongkong ratepayers forgotten the old English constitutional principle — "Redress precedes supply?" — Yours, etc.,

INQUIRER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
30th May.

SIR,—If any further proof is wanted as to the aversion of the Hongkong Government to reform, I think the undermentioned cuttings from the Government Official Gazette, dated 25th May, will furnish it.

They prove that representations by competent Government Officers are ignored year after year, and that when remedies for the scandalous condition of things are suggested, a deaf ear is turned.

No wonder the cost of living is high when we learn that the monopoly for slaughtering animals for food has been sold to a Chinaman, and that the market space is totally inadequate, ill-lighted, and with ridiculously inadequate supervision.

We laugh at the Chinese methods of governing; but are we much better off? We shall hear of a monopoly for baking bread next. It appears that instead of reforming the Chinese we are copying their methods. Perhaps some of the missionaries who are at present out of employment might turn their attention to the Government.—Yours, etc.,

PROTEST.

[Our correspondent first quotes the paragraphs from the Report of the Medical Officer of Health, which deal with the excessive height of buildings, insanitary or obstructive buildings, population and acute surface crowding. As these are quoted elsewhere to-day we refrain from repeating them. The other paragraphs quoted are:—]

"Among the accidental deaths of Chinese will be found no less than twenty (together with one non-Chinese death) as a result of the collapse of buildings, none of which were occasioned by fires. This appears to be a very heavy mortality from an obviously preventable cause, and suggests that a very much greater amount of supervision over the actual work, both of construction and of the repair of dwellings, is needed in this Colony."

"The total number of vaccinations recorded last year was 4,406 as compared with 6,529 in 1899, and 7,051 in 1898. This appears to be a most unsatisfactory state of affairs, and I think that more encouragement should be given to this most important means of prophylaxis. In 1897, I recommended that a small bonus should

be offered to the Chinese House Surgeons at the Native Hospitals (Tung Wa, Alice Memorial and Nethersole) for all successful vaccinations, the vaccine to be supplied by the Government, with a view to increasing the number of vaccinated persons in the Colony, and thereby reducing the mortality from this disease. This scheme was specially recommended by the Sanitary Board, by resolution, in August, 1898, and has been urged by me in subsequent Annual Reports, but has, I regret to say, not yet been given effect to."

"Central Market.—Owing to increase of trade, additional accommodation is required in the poultry section for the killing and plucking of fowls, etc. I first reported this matter to the Board on September 7th, 1898.

"Nothing has yet been done to improve the lighting of this market, although upon February 11th, 1899, I brought the subject before the Board and pointed out that it could be lighted much better and cheaper by gas."

"It is a very great pity indeed that the new Western Market is not to be re-constructed upon its present site in accordance with many recommendations to that effect which have been forwarded to the Government by the Board.

"Saiyingpoon Market might be rebuilt and extended with advantage.

"Wanchai Market is too small, and might be easily extended to cover the vacant space fronting upon Queen's Road, which would make room for a good many more stalls.

"Shaukiwan Market also needs extension. In 1889 I recommended that thirty additional stalls be added."

"Additional supervision required.—Upon July 17th, I recommended the appointment of an Assistant Inspector of Markets, ranking as a 2nd class Inspector, and pointed out that it was an impossibility that the supervision of these ten markets could be properly carried out by one Inspector, who is the only officer available for such duties at present.

"The effectual supervision of the food supply of the Colony appears to me to be one of vital importance to the health and well-being of the community. The magnitude of the work may be more readily understood when I mention that the total revenue collected as Market Rents during last year exceeded \$80,000."

"My recommendation was, however, not approved, hence I am obliged to do the best I can with the one Inspector."

"The monopoly of slaughtering animals in the Colony is still in the hands of a Chinese contractor.

"On July 17th, I again represented to the Board that the Government Animal Depôts and Slaughter House at Kennedy Town could not possibly be efficiently supervised by one Inspector, upon whom devolved the entire responsibility of managing these premises during the whole twenty four hours of each day, seven days a week, and recommended the appointment of two 2nd class men to assist him.

"As the slaughter-house is open day and night, work going on therein during the whole twenty-four hours, given three men, one Inspector could then do eight hours' duty daily, including Sundays, instead of one man being practically upon duty during the whole of the twenty-four hours as at present.

"I further pointed out that this small additional expenditure could easily be borne, as since the erection of these buildings six years ago at a total cost of \$116,316.0, including preparation of site, terracing, building of retaining walls, landing wharf, and Inspector's quarters—they have returned in fees, after paying all working expenses, the handsome nett sum of \$233,647.00.

"The two additional Inspectors asked for were, however, not granted.

"Shaukiwan and Aberdeen.—No proper slaughter-house has yet been provided for either of these two places."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
30th May.

SIR,—Would it not be well to consider the need of freedom from red-tape in this colony? In the first place, you have in Hongkong on the one hand streams of living water flowing

down the mountain sides, gathering in their courses the sweetest properties of the earth's surface and carrying with them, as they descend, those natural mineral gifts which, in Japan and elsewhere on this globe, are so valued and prized—even so treasured as to be made the means of building up almost gigantic commercial concerns. You have in this regrettably death-stricken Colony the most complete system, perhaps, of filtering those living streams that human ingenuity can devise. Yet with all this, you have two Europeans (whose combined pay does not amount to the salary and emoluments of an ordinary "Chinese No. 1") to superintend and take care of that colossal return for a large outlay of public funds.

Therefore deduce:—

(a.) The water supply of this Colony is in danger of being cut off should either one or both of these Europeans fall from sickness, and Victoria would, as far as its water supply is concerned, be in the hands of a few Chinese coolies.

In the second place, it is conceded on all sides that the police of this Colony are undermanned. There is no question about it. Ask Capt. May, the Superintendent, the "Father" of the Colony, as the convicts termed him before our Chief Justice. He will tell you outright that he wants more men, yet two of his sergeants are "told off" at Government House—one to look after His Excellency, and the other to assist and wait upon Lady Blake during her shopping expeditions.

The Government have asked and obtained the aid of the military at the expense of \$1 a day for each man, yet the purpose for which they have been called out goes on all the same.

Therefore deduce:—

(b.) Man our police force, and pay our European guardians of the peace sufficiently well enough to enable them to regard the Colony with pleasure.

Again, take the commerce of the colony, and as you, Sir, wisely remarked the other day, its boundless prosperity, equal, I believe you said, to any port in Asia, and, in many respects of the world.

Yet, there are steamers arriving here discharging cargoes of flour, contributing to Hongkong's welfare, practically almost daily; indeed, the major portion of our imports is comprised in the word "Flour," and has been so for many years. Sorrowful to speak, the five letters "Flour" are ignored, and you will, if you take the care, Sir, to examine the Harbour Master's returns, find that those five letters are excluded from his list. Our present Harbour-Master is too much engaged, I presume, in keeping the buoys in order, and seeing that No. (say 1) is open or shut. Why on earth he should exclude from his return the word "Flour" when it contributes more to the wealth of this Colony than any other commodity is another piece of red-tape or, if it is not, is a thing, which, as Lord Dundreary said, "No fellow can understand."

Furthermore, whose duty is it to guard the approaches to the only means we have of access to the other side of the river? Travel from Blake Pier to the Extension at any hour of the night, and if you are not careful enough to keep well to the right, you will assuredly go into the Harbour. To prove this, ask Capt. May, and he will tell you that almost nightly his police officers are reporting to him narrow escapes from death, and even the loss of life itself. There is no guard, no rail round Blake Pier, or any other pier, or on the sea-wall. A well-known consulting engineer in business adjoining the "Star" Ferry landing stage will tell you that he himself saved a life only a few days ago. They keep a policeman on duty with a big rod in his hand, something like a fishing-rod, and you can see him at 6 o'clock every evening walking to his post. He is placed there (that is, on Blake pier) presumably to fish out those, who, in the darkness are indiscreet enough to walk by the pier bank.

Therefore deduce:—

(c.) Would it not be better for His Excellency, in order to better perpetuate his name, and hand down to our coming generation the gubernatorial existence of our present Governor, that he should himself take a walk down to his pier and inquire into the matter?

Again, it has now come about that, notwithstanding all the police and military vigilance, the Chinese in the Colony have taken to dumping their dead bodies on the roofs of houses, and the Sanitary Inspectors have now been instructed (I believe) to mount all the cock-lofts of the houses in their districts to look after dead bodies.

Therefore deduce:—

(d.) Would it not be possible for a dead body to be resurrected, get up with plague, frightened at the appearance of the man in uniform, jump over the verandah, and the man in uniform be called upon to answer a charge of "killing and slaying" a resurrected body?

Moreover, and in conclusion, would it not be well for the Sanitary Board or His Excellency, for that matter, to consider whether it is advisable to turn a family out of one house where a case of plague is concerned, and permit them (without any quarantine) to take refuge in another house? I know a Chinese family, not a long distance from the Sanitary Board offices, who were turned out of their dwellings, and were compelled to seek shelter in another part of the city, after no end of refusals to receive them. Indeed, I know of one wealthy Chinaman, who has left the Colony because a plague-stricken family took quarters close by where he resided.

Therefore deduce:—

(e.) Do away with red-tape, and nine-tenths of these evils will disappear.

—Yours, &c.,

PUBLICIST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

31st May.

SIR,—Your contributor "Scrutator" has made many valuable suggestions towards the evolution of civic life and organisation in this Colony, but to my mind there is none more valuable than that in the paragraph re a Municipal Council. It is that representation of Chinese subjects resident in Hongkong should be restricted, as in Singapore, to two members. It would be intolerable that subjects of a Government like the Chinese government should have the power to run a British Colony, upon as they are too all sorts of influences inimical to any form of good government. The past history of Hongkong is proof enough of this.

With regard to the action of the British retapayers, I would quote—

He either fears his fate too much,
Or his deserts are small,
Who fears to put it to the touch
To win or lose it all.

—Yours, etc., W.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

27th May.

SIR,—Mr. "T." has hit the right nail on the head. The present system of drainage is a great, if not the greatest, factor in nourishing the many dreadful diseases in our midst.

Canton, known for its filth, has not been concreted, nor are the houses there lime-washed twice a year under compulsion, and yet it does not fare worse than Hongkong as far as plague is concerned.

The sanitary authorities have apparently wasted labour and money in the wrong direction. Could they not know that the fountain-head of all the trouble lies in the drains? The perfume issuing therefrom is too good even for the rats. Unless the defects be remedied at no distant date, those in charge of our sanitation may talk themselves hoarse and sit down to frame bye-laws after bye-laws to no practical good in the end.

The question of overcrowding is also important, and deserves early attention. But as long as the surrounding air is charged with sewage-gas, though the poor class may be provided with nice ventilated houses to live in, the evil is still there.

As regards the measures adopted for preventing the spread of the dreaded disease, it is most ridiculous to carry the plague-stricken, dead or alive, through crowded streets from one end of the town to the other. I should say the Governor's suggestion to leave the patient to be treated in his own house is very sensible. Sanitary precautions can be taken equally well in his house, and every requirement enforced in strict accordance with law and science.

The dead, too, should be made ready for immediate burial before removal from the premises. If there is more than one family in the house, disinfect and send the other families elsewhere without altering the present arrangement, leaving the patient's own family with him. Should he succumb to the disease, instead of removing his body in a half-open box to a place two or three miles off to be prepared for interment, coffin it on the spot in the most approved style, and after it has been taken away, close the house for a month or two, or, if necessary, longer. The doctors, officers and undertakers are as liable to be infected as anyone else. Why can he not be left with his own people, who will take better care of him than strangers? By leaving him in his own house, without unnecessarily frightening him, and with his own family constantly in attendance, there is more chance of his recovery.

It is also inhuman that, in some cases, the patient should be carried away against his own will and that of his relatives. On the slightest resistance, his relatives would be made to suffer for it, and the patient himself rushed into the fatal chair.

It is often the case that a patient, adult and child alike, after his removal from his house, is denied the consolation of seeing his relatives for the next twenty-four hours, and very often, too, is he kept waiting for hours before any food or medicine can be given him.

Many will bear me out in saying that some patients perfectly sensible before removal, actually fainted at the sight of the ambulance and became delirious when inside, and in the case of children, they kept on howling for their parents.

Every patient when removed was not actually suffering from plague, but merely suspected. Apart from the effect the removal has on the poor fellow's mind and nerves, the bumping up and down in a covered cage like the ambulance, naturally with strong smells, carried by two stoical coolies who have no compunction in throwing you down the moment they feel tired, is in itself sufficient to make a sound body sick.

Such measures are not only detrimental to the welfare of the patient himself but also injurious to the public health, for instead of checking the spread of the disease, they help it. They have been in force for the last seven years. Have they done any good? Abundant scares and irritation have been caused unnecessarily. It is true we have scant respect for others' feelings, but it is time that we should have them modified.

At the present moment, there is an outcry for municipal freedom. What has again revived this assertion of right? The death of a few Europeans from plague. In time of peace, even, some of us do not like to have the Chinese next door to us. Why should we, then, at a time when plague is in its height keep Chinese sick and dead amongst us? They are not so "sacred" that we want their dead to adorn our sweet home! Let them go as they like. The Venice Convention does not apply to uncivilised China. Hongkong being at her door should also be exempted.—Thanking you for the insertion of this.—Yours, etc.,

TRUTH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

27th May.

SIR,—Please allow me a space in your paper to say a little on the subjects so much in the minds of the people of Hongkong at present. After so many cases of plague occurring among Europeans, surely it is time enough to see that all the cleaning, whitewashing, disinfecting and removing of patients to the Plague Hospital is not diminishing the disease. In the manner it is being done, it is only a waste of time and money, and is doing no good whatever. Some days ago I saw a house in which a case of plague had occurred. The patient (Chinese) was removed to Kennedytown early in the morning, and before the coolies got to the house to disinfect and whitewash the place, to my surprise I saw bundles of clothes and trunks being carried away; the same were brought back at about five o'clock in the afternoon from where they were sent to prevent them being disin-

fect. Could not those clothes have been the cause of plague in the house where they were kept? It would be a very good thing if some one could be put to watch each of these houses to prevent the removal of things, and they would also be able to see that the coolies are not allowed to pick out things from the rubbish in the cart, as is so commonly done, to the disgust of passers-by.

In Macao no one is compelled to go to the Plague Hospital. Patients I have known have been treated at home and got well; while those that care to go to the Hospital if they do so in proper time are likely to recover. I really believe when patients are compelled to go to the Hospital, the fright alone is enough to kill them.

Another unpleasant sight that ought to be remedied is the dead boxes carried through the streets two or three inches open.

Another thing dangerous to Europeans is permitting Chinese children to attend schools at this season. The majority of them live in the plague-stricken districts, or might even have had some one suffering from plague in their homes; and when they are allowed in school and to be near to European children, it is not safe at all. It is just the same as going to the plague stricken districts.

Another calamity that is with us is the house-rent; it is heart-rending to the poorer classes of Europeans, who have either to pay the increased sums for house-rent demanded, or be removing every two or three months. This state of affairs seems to be getting worse every day. If a Municipal Council can settle the present state of affairs more satisfactorily, I earnestly hope it will soon be started.—Yours, etc.,

A FORMER PLAGUE PATIENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
27th May.

SIR,—I have again to call the attention of the proper authorities, through your columns, to the most objectionable way of bringing corpses to the Central Police Station at the side gate leading to the Old Bailey street. Yesterday the body of a child was carried in a basket and placed at the foot of the gate (as is usually done); later on, it was put in the dead box and taken away, and the basket was allowed to be shifted in a corner facing the late "Yan Foon's" barber shop, where it still lies untouched for somebody to remove it!

Another case this morning.—A child's corpse was also taken to the same gate, and after its identification it was wrapped up in a mat, tied up, hung with a piece of rope and taken away by a coolie, as if it were a piece of mutton or beef brought from the market, without being provided with a coffin or placed in a dead-box.

May I ask you, Mr. Editor, in cases of this sort who is to be blamed? Why does not Mr. May himself make an inspection of the place alluded to and take the matter in hand, or else place a special sentry on duty to look after this continual nuisance that annoys so much the passers-by? A public appeal cannot be passed unnoticed by the Government, and H.E. the Governor will, no doubt, investigate this serious ill-practice going on in the centre of the town and cause it to be stopped altogether.

In a thoroughfare so much frequented as the Old Bailey, this obnoxious practice should never be allowed to take place. Proper European supervision should deal with this matter, and not leave it at the discretion of coolies and lukongs. If Hongkong does not know how to carry on with decency the burial of corpses, let the Municipality of Macao give them lessons. A Municipal Chamber is a necessity in Hongkong; the sooner it is appointed the better.

Thanking you for granting me a space in your columns.—Yours, etc.,

VOX MUNICIPI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
28th May.

SIR,—Just after noon of the 28th inst., nearly opposite the Dockyard gates in Queen's Road, I observed a small crowd. On approaching closer I saw a N.C.O. of the Army Medical Corps, standing guard over a sick Chinaman, who, I subsequently learned, was suffering from bubonic plague and had dropped there sick. After waiting some ten or fifteen minutes, two of the special patrol of the Welsh Fusiliers and

a Sikh policeman arrived and relieved the N.C.O. of his apparently self-imposed task of keeping the pathway clear and watching the patient. Eventually the ambulance arrived and the man was taken away, but it was twenty-five minutes in arriving after I first saw the case.

During the whole of this time, the guard was occupied in kicking Chinese off the pavement, thrusting the unfortunate sufferer down on the roadside every time he essayed a feeble attempt to get away.

This may be interesting in view of, "Scrutator's" and other recent contributions, on the sanitary, &c., questions, as this took place within a stone's throw of residences where about one hundred Europeans live. I do not dare suggest what ought to have been done, but there should be some better method than that of parading such a spectacle in the public eye for a half hour or more.—Yours, etc.,

A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
29th May.

SIR,—I have read many of the interesting letters published in your valuable columns dwelling on plague and suggestions for checking its spread, but of all, I cannot satisfy myself that "A 20th Century Chinaman's" suggestion for checking the "dumping of dead bodies in the streets" could help the Sanitary Board—on the contrary, I am of opinion that it would bring on public abuse, strikes, riots and the shutting up of businesses, which would cause the commercial prosperity of the Colony to be endangered just the same as if drastic measures were not taken to check the disease.

I wonder what this modern Chinaman would do if the Sanitary Board did enforce such a law? Would he, for one, stop up all night to patrol the street that he lived in to see if a dead body was dumped at his door or at his neighbour's? Would he be pleased to witness his house being disinfected and his personal effects knocked about because a dead body had been dumped down at the other end of the street he lived in? Not much! I think he would then curse the law and say he wished he had never lived to witness the evils of the 20th century.

"A 20th Century Chinaman" should know that the Government cares more for her commercial interests than for the likes of those as represented by him, and without a doubt such has been the cause of his suggestion not being put into force long ago. Hoping to be favoured with an insertion of this, I enclose my card.—Yours etc.,

FOOK LUK SHAU.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
29th May.

SIR,—Will you allow me a little space in your paper for publishing the following disgusting scene that impressed me so much on my arrival from Macao yesterday. Just a few yards from the Steamboat Co.'s wharf, a heap of debris and rubbish (supposed to be from infected places) was burning freely at the Praya, surrounded by a member of Chinese coolies and little boys, not a policeman or any member of the Sanitary staff to superintend such a nasty operation. This objectionable practice of carrying rubbish and dirty clothes, old furniture, etc., etc., to be burnt in the centre of the town and in a public thoroughfare is most reproachable in a civilised town like Hongkong. Why do not we follow the example of Macao, where this rubbish is burnt in an unfrequented place out of town, and properly supervised by a municipal police, to prevent the coolies carrying away what they like?

Another abominable practice that is carried on here in Hongkong, to my great surprise, is the exposure of the belongings in the public streets from the plague-stricken houses, lying for hours without any European supervision, and not having them removed at once to the proper quarters. Who is to look after these affairs? Is it the police or the Sanitary Department? In my opinion neither of them. The coolies work *ad libitum*.

H.E. Sir Henry Blake, I believe, was perfectly satisfied with what he has recently seen in Macao, where the Municipality has so carefully carried out its task regarding the sanitation of the whole town, so there is no need for me to say anything

or to call H.E.'s attention to this point. For the insertion of these few lines, you have my best thanks.—Yours, etc.,

S. LOBATO DE FARIA.

[We have received several other complaints to a similar effect.]

THE PLAGUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
25th May.

SIR.—As an old resident in Hongkong, I think I can claim the privilege of making some suggestions as to the sanitation of the Colony, in which plague is fast increasing and threatening lives of not only the filthy Chinese, but the cleanly European in the centre of the town.

In the neighbouring Colony of Macao, the finances of which are in no way comparable with those of Hongkong, the measures and precautions taken against the spreading of plague, although not entirely successful, are anyhow checking its progress to some extent.

In Macao the drains and gutters of the whole town are daily being washed with salt water pumped from the sea, and buckets of tar and sulphur are daily burnt and taken round the town by coolies accompanied by Government employees with instructions to call and stay a few minutes in any house whenever they are requested to do so. Could the Government not do the same here in Hongkong? If not, I would certainly suggest that the Sanitary Board should order the washing of the streets and gutters by pumping sea-water; and the Government should order the public, at a given signal, say a gun-shot or two, to burn tar and sulphur or any other thing that the Government may direct—this to be done simultaneously, so that the whole town may be at the same moment covered with disinfecting smoke, and this order to be enforced by heavy fine if not obeyed.

I should say that if such steps do not conquer this, our bitter-pest foe, they will at least moderate it to some extent.—Yours, etc.,

A. F. J. S.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 25th May.

SIR.—With reference to certain remarks in a letter in your issue of the 24th instant under the heading "Parsees and Plague," we beg leave to say that if those remarks are intended against Inspector Knight, of the Sanitary Department, who very considerably helped to lower the coffin in the grave, he did so not of his own accord, under the use of any official authority; but seeing the difficulties for lowering, he most courteously sought our permission to help, and what services he did so kindly render, he rendered with our full permission and entire consent. In justice to Inspector Knight we must say that his action was very much appreciated by those concerned, and we hope this will be the last word on the matter.—Yours, etc.,

H. M. MEHTA.
H. N. MODY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
26th May.

SIR.—A great deal has been said and written about the bubonic plague since its outbreak in 1894, but so far nobody has elucidated the public with a proper definition of it. What the doctors have said regarding it was merely a guess, and unfortunately they still leave us all in the dark! After all nobody knows (except God) up to this date what it really is—no experts have yet come forward to say what it is.

If the serum from Dr. Yersin has proved so effective a cure for this malady (as they say), why do not the doctors, with the assistance of warders, adopt it for the sufferers? Each doctor (or better, everybody) should be provided by the Government with this serum, and let everybody try his own chance, and let also each sufferer remain quietly in his house without these unpleasant and unnecessary processions of hammocks and dead-boxes that are going on daily, as well as the most disgusting exposures in thoroughfares of the personal effects, furniture, etc., of the plague-stricken victims, to the great detriment of the public.

"Let the broth remain still, without stirring it up, then drink it—no sediment will go into the stomach." This is very wise advice, and it

is irrefutable. The infection will never cease to contaminate if this advice is not taken. Try it and you will all see its marvellous effects and the evil will have its end. Now-a-days it is advisable that everybody should be his own doctor, as the professional advices have so far failed to quench the evil. This is the voice of the oracle that hints to us the best system of dealing with the present epidemic.

The Sanitary Board will do well to act upon this advice.—Thanking you for the insertion of this letter.—Yours, etc.,

VOX POPULI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
27th May.

SIR,—The plague is upon us in its worst form, and unless some drastic measures are adopted to remedy the evil, I am afraid it will cling upon us until the commercial prosperity of the Colony is greatly endangered. The outlook at present is bad enough, and if the sanitary authorities still go on dilly-dallying with pigheaded communities and keep on yielding to absurd religious scruples of persons who are adverse to sanitary reforms, we shall one day have a plague case in every household like the tenth plague of Egypt.

With regard to dumping dead bodies, the suggestion about disinfecting the whole street in which a dead body is found would very well stop this nuisance, because every householder for his own individual interest would keep a strict look out, and help the Sanitary Board to trace the culprit and bring him to justice; and at the same time it would also stop the removal of infected patients from one house to another in order to avoid disinfection. This measure was not adopted because the landlords were against it.—Yours, etc.,

A TWENTIETH CENTURY
CHINAMAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
30th May.

SIR,—Cannot something be done to check the carrying of personal effects along Battery Path, from the infected premises of Beaconsfield Arcade, at hours when residents are proceeding to and from the tram station. I passed up this way on going to the Peak last evening at 5 o'clock and witnessed a number of coolies taking goods away from the back premises of the Arcade, leaving them along the pathway until more had been fetched. All precautions should be taken by the authorities to minimise the danger of infection; the case in point certainly does not tend in that direction.—Yours, etc.,

PEAK RESIDENT.

THE CHINESE AND SANITATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
28th May.

SIR,—Some time ago a worthy member of our Sanitary Board alleged that the principal Chinese in this Colony had not rendered any assistance in the suppression of plague. He was not justified in making such an allegation, which would only tend to increase the ill-feeling against our fellow colonists. As one of the Chinese representatives on the Board pointed out to him at the time, the principal Chinese had been assisting the Government both publicly and privately in preventing the spread of the dreadful disease; as far as that is concerned, no one worked more heartily than their elects on the committee of the Tung Wah Hospital.

In order to enlighten the Government on everything connected with the Chinese, and facilitate the carrying out of local laws, I understand they have already formed themselves into a society, and raised a large sum of money amongst themselves to meet the contingent expenses.

Regarding the dumping of dead bodies in public thoroughfares and the keeping back of plague cases, they have spent liberally in printing circulars and engaging medical students and district watchmen to go about, explaining the good intention of the Sanitary Board, and persuading the coolie class to report the moment they know there is a case of plague amongst themselves.

They are doing this still, having retained a locally educated doctor for similar purposes. Those who think that our Chinese neighbours do not take any interest in the welfare of this

Colony are greatly mistaken. Have they not as big, if not bigger, an interest in this Colony as any other nationals? It is only prejudice and insufficient local representation that give rise to all this unpleasant misunderstanding.

The Chinese are known to have great respect for their dead. No matter where he dies and however far he may be away from home, even by aid of subscriptions, his body is sent to his country to be decently buried. That some of them should depart from this "old" practice must be for some serious reason. Why is the matter not investigated into? I am sure the leading Chinese will not grudge whatever assistance may be required of them.

Any concession which they ask for, and which the Government can grant without interfering with the public health, should be granted. We want to suppress plague and do not want infection to be scattered all over the colony. If they could do anything to induce the ignorant class to come forward and report willingly, why should certain bye-laws not be modified to meet local requirements?—Yours, etc.,

FAIR-PLAY.

THE "CRICKET GROUND."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 29th May.

SIR,—May I ask through your medium whether the Cricket Ground at Hongkong is a Public Recreation Ground like elsewhere or exclusively reserved for one privileged Cricket Club only. The ground is just being enclosed by a high sharp-spiked iron railing, so it is a matter of speculation for the public of Hongkong if in future they will have to be grateful to a Club for still being allowed to feast their eyes on the sanctuary over a grating, or whether the public of Hongkong enjoying too many gratuitous luxuries at the hands of the Government already will in future be admitted only on payment of a fee or by a season ticket.

Probably the greater part would not object if in return arrangements are made for a band playing there some nights in the week. There are smaller colonies than Hongkong where efforts are successfully made for somewhat relieving the dullness of the commoners' existence. Thanking you in advance for kindly admitting the above.—Yours, etc.,

ANOTHER MALCONTENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 3rd May, 1901.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Another Malcontent" has hit upon one other long-felt want—if I may call it—in this Colony. Though not many, still we have places where a band may play during the afternoon or the evening; therefore, it is matter for wonder that we have nothing of the kind here, whereas, not to go farther than Macao or Shanghai, the public enjoys a band twice or oftener a week in favourite places of resort.

Surely our public would be too grateful if one—say, the able band of the Madras Infantry or any other—were to play at least once a week at the Botanical Gardens, as was done in former times. It would be welcomed as a boon, after the heat and harass of the day, to pass a few hours inhaling the fresh air of the gardens and listening to the band. Trusting this suggestion will not be quite in vain.—Yours, etc.,

S.

SOAP FOR COAL-COOLIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—In your issue of Monday you report a meeting of the Sanitary Board where amongst other matters there arose a question of soap for the people who use the new free baths. The thick epidermis of a coal-coolie cannot be cleansed by water alone, and, as Dr. Clark said, if solid soap were supplied, every user would walk off with the cake whether he had used little or none.

I therefore venture to suggest that a liquid soap be supplied, say a solution of strong alkaline soft soap, with or without some disinfecting agent added. This could be measured out to each bather in a little earthenware dish or mixed with the water supplied; thus would the complexions of the bathers be improved and it would also save them the trouble of carrying microbes about.—Yours, etc.,

W.

A SUGGESTION FOR FLUSHING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
25th May.

SIR,—In the article signed "T." in yesterday's issue of your valued paper I found something which I have thought of before. I mean the erection of flushing tanks on the high levels into which sea water must be pumped for flushing the drains. Now, what I would like to know is whether it would be possible and whether in the long run it would not be much cheaper to use the natural wind-power for working the necessary pumps instead of steam engines swallowing big sums for fuel? In my opinion it ought to be possible in the following manner:—

A number of modern wind-motors are erected at places on the Peak where they are well exposed to winds from all directions. The wind-power by means of dynamos is to be transformed into electricity, which is to be conducted to the pumping stations, where it becomes the working power for the pumps. So the latter work as long as there is any wind. Of course the whole system has to be built on so big a scale as amply to provide for a time when strong winds are wanting.

If the whole thing is possible at all, there is the prospect of using the water-power so gained also for other purposes, electric light, etc.

I do not know whether ever a trial has been made to use the natural wind-power on such a large scale, but I, and I think some others, would be pleased very much by receiving the opinion of some technical man upon this subject. Enclosing my card.—Yours, etc.,

WIND-POWER.

A POSTAL ANOMALY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
25th May.

SIR,—Can you or any of your numerous readers inform me why in the British Colony of Hongkong, postcards should be headed with an inscription in the French language? It seems somewhat of an anomaly; especially in the case of cards intended for merely local circulation. It is to be hoped that the new cards shortly to be issued will be free from such an absurdity.—Yours, etc.,

T. W.

THE "STAR" FERRY CO.,
LIMITED.

The third ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at the company's office, No. 2, Connaught Road, on the 29th inst. at noon, for the purpose of receiving the report of the directors and a statement of accounts to 30th April last.

The Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G. presided, and there were also present Messrs. N. A. Siebs, J. A. Mackay (directors), R. C. Wilcox, A. Mackenzie, A. J. Raymond, T. H. Reid, E. H. Sharp, W. H. Potts, Lau Hip Chu, W. H. Ray, and E. Osborne (secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said—I propose, if you please, to dispense with the reading of the report. The figures show an improvement on those of previous years, and in spite of increased expenditure on all sides which we, in common with others, have to face, the profits for the year enable us to recommend a 12 per cent. dividend and to effect a considerable writing off from boats, goodwill, turnstiles, and Ice House Street pier improvements. The whole of the premium on the new issue of capital we propose should be transferred to reserve, which with \$956 added from working profits will then stand at \$20,000. We do not recommend a larger dividend because we think the permanent welfare of the company is best secured by writing down unrealisable assets such as goodwill, and also because, in view of the fact that our boats are uninsured, it is desirable that a reserve fund equal at least to the cost of one new boat should be built up as speedily as possible. The question of expenditure I have referred to is mainly in connection with our wages account, which is continually on the increase, owing to the difficulty we experience in obtaining crews for the launches and their incessant demands for higher pay, and whilst on this subject I may remark to those who are continually indulging in criticisms concerning the steering of the boats that

although our scale of pay is considerably higher than the average market rate, and although every boat is manned with two coxswains, we are not able to attract suitable men, principally on account of their having to navigate through the most crowded part of the harbour, where, in consequence of the absence of a fairway, the risk of collision and consequent loss of certificate is great and the strain upon their nerves such as would I think severely test the average European, and under the circumstances I think it speaks well for them that during the past twelve months these heavy double-ended boats, making 200 trips a day, had only 3 collisions costing \$175. We have considered the feasibility of Europeans or Manilamen as coxswains, but the expense of Europeans would involve the disappearance of a very large proportion of profits, and their employment is therefore out of the question. The Manilaman no doubt makes an excellent helmsman on board ship where he has but to steer by the compass or under an officer's direction, but it is doubtful whether he would do any better than the Chinaman on the ferryboats, whilst his presence there would undoubtedly create friction with the crew, and as we do not consider the steering sufficiently bad to justify dangerous experiments, we prefer, at all events for the present, not to discard the Chinaman until he has proved himself to be as worthless as his critics pronounce him to be. However, to facilitate their getting alongside without accident, we have fixed guide and buffer piles to the Ice House Street pier, the expense of which is large, on account of the length of piles, but we think it is money well spent and that the arrangements will enable the boats to berth more quickly and without bumping, and also lessen the wear and tear hitherto caused by warping them into position. With regard to the two old boats, *Evening Star* and *Rising Star*, the former will be sold when a suitable offer is forthcoming. The latter is used as a reserve boat, taking the place of others when under repair, but as she is unsuitable and too small for the service, we propose replacing her with another double-ended which we anticipate can be paid for without calling up additional capital. I therefore propose the adoption of the reports and accounts.

Mr. R. C. WILCOX in seconding the motion said he had great pleasure in doing so. He did not think it was necessary to add much to what had been already said, to which they had listened with very much interest, beyond expressing their great satisfaction with the report and the results which had been achieved during the past year. He thought, however, something might be said in addition concerning the necessity for great care in steering. Of course the difficulty in obtaining labour was very great, and he thought the Board were wise in continuing to employ Chinese. But something might be done to break down the monopoly which seemed to exist among the Chinese in that direction, but how it was to be done they did not know at present. The subject might, however, engage the attention of those in shipping circles. With regard to the reserve fund, he thought every shareholder would endorse the course which had been adopted, for the reserve fund should be steadily built up to cover the cost of the new boat. As to the goodwill, that was an unrealisable asset, and he would like to see it written off and disappear altogether from the balance sheet. He thought that was all he had to say, and he would be very pleased to second the report.

On the motion of Mr. MACKENZIE, seconded by Mr. REID, the appointment of Mr. Siebs as a director was confirmed.

Mr. RAYMOND proposed, and Mr. RAY seconded, that Mr. W. H. Potts be re-elected auditor for the coming year.

This was carried.

The CHAIRMAN: That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be posted this afternoon.

The following is the report:—

The directors have the pleasure to submit to shareholders their report with a statement of accounts for the year ending 30th April, 1901.

ACCOUNTS.

The net earnings of the boats after paying a working expenses were \$32,329.64 as against

\$25,845.55 last year, being an increase of \$6,484.09.

The amount at credit of profit and loss Account after paying for repairs is \$43,455.13 which, with the approval of shareholders, it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

Directors' and auditor's fees	\$1,000.00
Dividend of 12 per cent.	14,883.00
Write off Boats	5,231.00
" " Goodwill	4,000.00
" " Turnstiles	207.67
" " Ice House Street Pier	1,359.06
Transfer to Reserve Fund	16,000.00
Carry forward to new account	774.41
	\$43,455.13

CAPITAL.

By special resolution of 23rd May, 1900, the capital of the company was increased by 10,000 shares of \$10 each—\$100,000 of which 9,610 were taken up.

They were issued at a premium of \$6 per share, the amount paid up being \$2.50 and \$1.50 premium—\$4 per share.

BOATS.

The *Northern Star* and *Southern Star* were delivered last October and November respectively and are giving every satisfaction.

ICE HOUSE STREET PIER.

This pier has been rented from the Government for the Company's exclusive use. Guide and buffer piles have been driven on the eastern side to facilitate the boats getting alongside and the deck railed off to separate third class from other passengers, with turnstiles for all classes, the cost of these alterations amounting to \$5,359.06.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. P. Sachse having left the colony, his place has been taken by Mr. N. A. Siebs, the appointment of whom requires confirmation.

AUDITOR.

Mr. W. H. Potts has audited the accounts now presented, and offers himself for re-election. C. P. CHATRE, Chairman.

Hongkong, 24th May, 1901.

BALANCE SHEET.

30th April, 1901.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
To capital.—			
10,000 shares at \$10 each fully paid up	100,000.00		
New capital (9,610 shares at \$10 each, \$2½ paid up)	24,025.00		
		124,025.00	
To reserve fund as per last account	4,000		
To transferred from profit and loss account	16,000		
		20,000.00	
To unclaimed dividends	66.75		
To accounts payable	29,261.50		
To balance of profit and loss account	774.40		
		\$174,127.65	

ASSETS.		\$	c.
By value of boats as per last account	90,205.00		
By final payment for <i>Northern Star</i> and <i>Southern Star</i>	53,026.00		
	\$143,231.00		
Less written off	5,231.00		
		138,000.00	
By value of goodwill as per last account	\$10,000.00		
Less written off	4,000.00		
		6,000.00	
By accounts receivable	864.13		
By Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	23,096.77		
By Hongkong and Shanghai Bank No. 3 account	66.75		
By value of turnstiles as per last account	1,000.00		
Since expended	1,207.67		
	\$2,207.67		
Less written off	207.67		
		2,000.00	
By cost of alterations to Ice House Street pier	5,359.06		
Less written off	1,359.06		
	4,000.00		
By cash in hand	160.00		
	\$174,127.65		

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To repairs and alterations to boats	\$ 0.
To balance appropriated as follows:—	5,665.09
Directors' and auditor's fees	\$1,000.00
Dividend of 12 per cent.	14,883.00
Written off boats	5,231.00
Written off goodwill	4,000.00
Written off turnstiles	207.67
Written off Ice House Street pier	1,359.06
Transferred to reserve fund	16,000.00
Carried to new account	774.40
	43,455.13
	\$40,120.22

By balance from last account	\$ 0.
By net earnings of boats	32,329.64
By interest	639.13
By scrip fees	112.00
By premium on 9,610 shares at \$1½ each	14,415.00
By additional premium on 239 shares taken up after the due date	729.50
	\$19,120.22

RESERVE FUND.

To balance	\$ 0.
	20,000.00
	\$20,000.00
By balance from last account	\$ 0.
By transfer from profit and loss account	4,000.00
	16,000.00
	\$20,000.00

REVIEW.

A Year in China, 1899-1900. By CLIVE BIGHAM, C.M.G. London: Macmillan & Co.

THE author, who was attached to the British Legation at Peking for twelve months, was enabled to see more of China in that period than many of the European residents in that country see of it in a lifetime. In the short period of a year, Mr. Bigham travelled overland from Canton to Peking; he visited Szechuen and returned to the capital by the old trade routes; then he journeyed through Manchuria and crossed to Vladivostok and went south to Corea and arrived back in China to take an active part in Admiral Seymour's gallant attempt to relieve the beleaguered legations. When his retirement from the China service was due, Mr. Bigham returned to Europe by means of the Siberian railway. The author modestly prefaces his work with the statement that the book only purports to be a record of the personal experiences and impressions gained during nearly eighteen months' stay in the Far East. Part of this time was spent in travel, part in diplomacy and part in fighting. The author also takes the opportunity of thanking those who so kindly assisted him when travelling. The book, although written on subjects which the majority of our readers will be well acquainted with, is one of the most interesting and most readable we have seen for some time. There is nothing stilted in the author's style—his reminiscences flow as free as if he were verbally relating them. It requires no effort, as is the case with not a few books on China, to grasp at once the writer's meaning. It is a book of travel affording most pleasant reading, which the reader will peruse from beginning to end. Mr. Bigham does not pose as an authority on any subject he refers to, and he obviously has availed himself of many of the recognised writers on China. His book is a series of impressions made in transit, and although in instances his ideas are somewhat wide of the mark, yet, on the whole, they are just and fairly accurate. The author's own personality is displayed in several of his interviews with the Chinese, and it is to be regretted that Mr. Bigham is not attached permanently to the China Consular Service. He has a most comprehensive grasp of the Chinese official character, and understands the form of diplomacy most adapted to it.

Mr. Bigham arrived in Hongkong in April, 1899, at the period of the Kowloon (Kowling) trouble. He was permitted to accompany Sir Henry Blake when he made his much regretted visit to the Canton Viceroy. The writer then describes his trip overland from Canton to Hankow, and he was most favourably impressed with the

leading treaty port on the Yangtze. He thinks Hankow might well form the future capital of the Empire, and "its selection should promote not only the trade, but also the political stability and civilisation of the whole Empire. He then proceeded to Peking via Kiaifengfu and the Yellow River. A brief description of Tientsin is given, and a chapter is devoted to life in the Legation before, of course, the Boxer rebellion. "Life," says the author, "however, inside the high walls of the Legation, with its broad lawns and a comparatively pure atmosphere, was far more supportable than outside in the dusty malodorous streets. The curse of Peking is that it is absolutely impossible to avoid the foul sights and smells that infest it and make it superlatively disgusting even for China. The European eye may perhaps become more or less callous after years of education, but the European nose never." An account of a visit to the Tsungli Yamen is an amusing, and we should imagine, an accurate description of a monotonous function. The author touches on the question of native Christians, and remarks "that anyone who in the recent sieges of the foreign quarters in Peking and Tientsin saw the thousands of natives that stuck to their new faith, who read of the thousands that were martyred for it in the provinces, can hardly question their honesty and single-heartedness." Of course it must be recognised that the Christians were fighting for their lives, knowing well the fate which awaited a surrender. It is interesting to note that the author differs from not a few of our consuls in China in the attitude towards the Chinese official. He thinks "conciliation, as in all Asiatic countries, is a bad way of converting these opinions: the logical faculty of the Chinese is not such as to grasp its objects or its advantages; they understand the iron hand much better than the velvet glove. So that generally speaking utility is better served by meeting the insolent and arbitrary mandarin with his own weapons and on his own ground." The author's description of his trip across Manchuria is very interesting. He thinks that "Harbin, the great Russian colony and railway junction that has sprung up in the last two years in the very heart of Manchuria, will without doubt soon attract all the trade and labour of the three provinces." The same town "in the opinion of many" is destined "to be not only the commercial focus of Manchuria but also the political and administrative capital of North-Eastern Asia, already—in two years from the date of its birth, for before that it was a nameless hamlet—it has grown into a thriving town with ten thousand inhabitants and its population augments every month." The author then relates his experiences during his travels through Eastern Siberia, Corea, and Western Szechuen. He gives a most graphic account of Admiral Seymour's expedition to Peking, and the relief of that expedition was effected through the bravery of Mr. Bigham's "boy." When all other efforts of obtaining communication with the foreign troops at Tientsin had failed, the author relates the story of the Chinese "boy's" splendid gallantry. It is worth giving in full. "I sent in my Chinese servant with a cipher message from the Admiral to the Consul, which he was to eat if caught. He swam the river in the early morning and went alone on his perilous way. By the exercise of considerable ingenuity and no little pluck, he managed to get through in the course of the day and to perform his task, though he was first caught and interrogated by the Boxers, and again later on by the Imperial troops, both of whom he succeeded in outwitting. Arriving late in the evening in the native city, he cautiously began to enquire how the 'foreign devils' were in the settlement, and was told that nearly all were dead or had fled. Gradually making his way towards it, he got into a deserted zone of houses, and soon after came on the French outposts, who fired on him, mistaking him for a Boxer. By semaphoring with his arms he at last conveyed to them that he had a message, and was then escorted to the British Consulate. Here he told his story (having eaten the paper), and preparations were at once made for a force to come out and succour us. Tientsin itself had only been relieved that morning by a mixed column from Taku, and they were all as ignorant of our existence, condition and whereabouts as we were of theirs."

Mr. Bigham does not inform us how his "boy's" pluck was rewarded; such an action was worthy of a very handsome recognition by the Powers, for the "boy" at tremendous odds and great danger to himself saved the column. It is to be hoped he will be fittingly rewarded. The book is well illustrated, and contains several maps.

HONGKONG GUN CLUB.

The first annual general meeting of members was held at the Hongkong Gun Club on Monday, the 27th ult. Present—Mr. J. A. Mackay, (Chairman), Messrs. A. G. Wise, H. Burton G. T. Veitch, Captains Cadogan and Richards, the Hon. H. W. Trefusis, Messrs. H. P. White, W. A. Cruickshank and W. Davies (Hon. Secretary).

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The CHAIRMAN proposed and Mr. H. P. WHITE seconded the adoption of the report and accounts, and the motion was carried.

It was then proposed by the CHAIRMAN and seconded by Mr. CRUICKSHANK that the monthly subscription be raised from \$1 to \$2, and this was agreed to unanimously.

A ballot for the Committee for the ensuing year was then held.—Mr. G. T. Veitch retired and did not offer himself for re-election. Mr. Burton, Capt. Cadogan, R.W.F., and Messrs. Cruickshank, Mackay and Davies were elected. Mr. Davies was elected to continue the offices of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. It was agreed that any three members of the committee of five together with the Honorary Secretary should settle all questions relating to shooting.

The CHAIRMAN informed the members of the retirement of the Hon. J. J. Keswick from the Presidency of the Club, and proposed that the Hon. J. J. Bell Irving should be invited to be President, and this was cordially agreed to.

Mr. H. P. WHITE moved, and Capt. the Hon. H. W. TREFUSIS seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Keswick for the very hands me challenge cup presented by him prior to his departure, and the motion was carried with acclamation.

The proceedings then terminated with vote of thanks to the Chairman and Hon Secretary.

YOKOHAMA RACES.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT]

Taipei, 15th May.

Below are the results of the third day of the Yokohama Race Meeting:—

Prix des Haras (Handicap Horses) 1 mile.

Mr. Nishimura's *Tobu*.

Cesarewitch Stakes (Handicap China ponies) 1 mile.

Mr. Russia's *Mogol* (late *Emerald*).

The Mixed Champions (Horses, 1½ mile).

Mr. Russia's *Mira*.

The China Champions, 1½ mile.

Mr. Tytherleigh's *Aberdeen*.

The Colonial Stakes (Country-breds and Australians) 1½ mile.

Mr. Scherz's *Faule Grete*.

The China Consolation (Subscription China) ½ mile.

M. State's *Illinois*.

The Australian Consolation (Walers) ½ mile.

Mr. Tatsuta's *Matsukaze*.

The China Solace, ½ mile.

Mr. Hugo's *Sunrise* (late *Pluto*).

The New York correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on the 28th April:—Peking telegrams admit that Mr. Rockhill's efforts to reduce the amount of indemnities payable by China have failed. It is drily added that the other Powers are willing that the United States shall abandon their own claims, but Europe will require full compensation for all losses and expenses. Mr. Conger denies the report that the President disapproved of his conduct in Peking. Nevertheless, it is suggested that the Iowa Republicans have been advised to nominate Mr. Conger for Governor of that State, in which case he would resign his post in China.

HONGKONG.

On the arrival of H. M. S. *Astraea* at Chemulpo, H.M.S.S. *Barfleur* and *Otter* left for Weihaiwei.

It is common talk amongst the military that the Royal Welsh Fusiliers will leave here in October for Singapore.

The British cruiser *Endymion* arrived in the harbour on the 30th ult. from Weihaiwei. The hospital-ship *Gualior* left for Taku.

We have received a Government notification and have also been informed by the Secretary of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, that the Government has received the following telegram, dated the 24th instant, from H. B. M. Consul-General at Bangkok:—"Vessels from Hongkong should call at Kok Phai for quarantine."

Inspector McEwan, of the Naval Yard Police, is resigning shortly, and will be succeeded by Sergeant Lawrence, of the Kowloon detachment, who joined the Police Force as a constable on 16th February, 1899, and was promoted to the rank of sergeant on 4th March, 1900. Inspector McEwan, who has five years' service, joins the staff of the Sanitary Department. He holds the Plague and Belilios medals.

On the 25th inst., at the Parsee Club, Mr. F. D. Setna, the president of the Hongkong Parsee Cricket Club, was presented with a nice souvenir in the shape of a silver tea-set and tray by the members of the club and friends. Mr. J. M. Master, the captain of the club, spoke very highly of Mr. Setna, and said how very sorry all the members would be to miss him from the club when he went home by the steamer *Arratoon Apar*. In reply, Mr. Setna thanked all the members, wished the club prosperity, and hoped to see it on a better footing when he returned. All present then wished Mr. Setna *bon voyage*.

The embarkation of Indian troops and followers proceeding to India on the 29th inst. in the steamer *Arratoon Apar* will take place this morning. The troops are divided into three parties, and embark in three trips. The first party, comprising the 38th (A), 58th (B), and 62nd (C) Native Field Hospital, will parade at the Kowloon Police Pier at seven o'clock. The second party, composed of one officer, two sergeants, and 210 followers of the Siege Train, will follow half an hour later, and at eight o'clock the third party will parade at the Kowloon Police Pier. This party consists of the 47th Native Field Hospital, (B and C sections), remainder of Siege Train, and details of the 3rd Madras Light Infantry and 22nd Bombay Infantry. Officers' chargers and mules are to be embarked at seven o'clock. The details of the Remount Establishment will embark at Causeway Bay at half-past eight, and proceed direct to the ship. Captain Swettenham, R.G.A., is in charge of the troops, and Captain Mulvaney, I.M. Staff, is the medical officer in charge. The troops and followers will be medically examined before embarking.

A grand concert by Senorita Adelina Bonin assisted by several local ladies and gentlemen under the direction of Professors Galuzzi and Emil Danenberg, was held in the handsome and spacious ballroom of Club Lusitano on Saturday night, the 25th inst. In spite of the heat, a fairly large audience assembled to greet Senorita Bonin, among those present being Senhor Conselheiro Romano and Mr. Crespo, the Portuguese Consul-General of Canton, and Mrs. Crespo. Senorita Bonin was put down for four Spanish songs which, although not perhaps sufficiently familiar to a Hongkong audience to be fully appreciated, were very efficiently rendered. This lady possesses a very good and powerful voice, and sings with the usual expression and grace which characterise all Spanish primadonnas. The programme for the evening, though somewhat lengthy, was put through in a capital style, and bouquets were numerous. The ladies and gentlemen sang and played so well that it is difficult for us to mention any one specially. Mr. Geo. P. Lammert's rendering of Piniuti's "Queen of the Earth" was, however, undoubtedly the gem of the evening. Mr. Lammert, although billed for one song, appeared again in the second part of the programme and sang "Oh, Day of Bliss" to fill the place of Mr. F. G. Marques, who was unable to sing.

H.E. the Governor and party returned on the 29th inst. from Macao by the *Stanley*.

On the 25th inst. H.M.S. *Glory* left for Yokohama, while H.M.S. *Bonaventura* arrived from Kobe.

The transport *Clavering* left the harbour at about noon on the 25th inst. for India, conveying a squadron of the Bengal Lancers.

The appointments of Mr. W. Crake to be Second Assistant Marine Surveyor, and Mr. R. McEwen to be Inspector of Nuisances, are notified in the *Gazette*.

H.M.S. *Hermione* left on the 28th inst. for Shanghai, as did the Italian cruiser *Stromboli*. The hospital-ship *Gwalior* arrived on the 28th inst. from the south.

Apart from plague, the return of cases of communicable disease reported in the Colony during last week were:—Enteric Fever, 5 cases, 3 deaths (one case from the Harbour); Puerperal Fever, one case, one death, Chinese; Small-pox, two cases, one death, Chinese.

Hongkong residents will be interested to hear that Lieut. Higgon, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, has been appointed Staff Captain at Weihaiwei, in succession to Lieut. Ball-Aston of the same regiment, who is resigning that post. Capt. Higgon will leave Tientsin for his new post very shortly.

By way of experiment, three hundred new rickshas—popularly styled first-class vehicles—are shortly to be run on the streets of the City. They are, we believe, to be limited to the use of Europeans only, as under the present system it is always open to question that the ricksha one may be seated in has not just been.

The Secretary of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce informed us yesterday that the Chamber had learnt from the Colonial Secretary that the Government has just received the following telegram from the Colonial Secretary, Singapore:—"Chinese coolie immigration prohibited by vessels sailing from Hongkong after 29th May."

In a short time the Supreme Court is to find temporary premises in a specially constructed mat-shed building on the ground facing the entrance to the Hongkong Club. As the Court's valuable library is to be housed on this spot, the mat-shed will be of a substantial nature. The Supreme Court building is then to be pulled down and the new Post Office will be erected on the site as soon as possible—none too soon, however, it will be generally agreed.

We learn that the Chinese inhabitants, especially women and children, have left the Colony in great numbers in the last few days, being afraid that if they are attacked by sickness they will not be allowed to return to their homes on the mainland. They are said to express fears that they will be removed to the plague hospital by force, whether they are really attacked by the disease or not. There seems no reason for the latter fear, but that is neither here nor there in event of a scare.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is stated from Shanghai that a large piece of land with river frontage and deep water on the Pootung side, below the docks, has been secured by the Hamburg-America Linie for the sum of Tls. 100,000.

The principal races of the opening day of the Singapore Sporting Club's Spring Meeting on the 21st inst. were won as follows:—Singapore Derby, by Mr. Howden's *Gaylass*, in a field of 7; Grand Stand Cup, by Mr. Tunncliffe's *Orheus*, only three starting; Lawn Cup, by Mr. Howden's *Deadlight*.

The Secretary of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce informed us on Thursday afternoon that the Chamber was informed by the Government that a despatch has been received from H.B.M.'s Consul at Swatow intimating that that port has been declared by the Shanghai authorities to be infected with bubonic plague.

We note among the arrivals of the week, says the *P. & T. Times*, the names of the Hon. and Mrs. Stewart Lockhart of Hongkong. The Colonial Secretary, we are sorry to hear, is on a voyage of recuperation from enteric. We are sure his many friends and admirers in the North will do everything in their power to render his first visit to these latitudes both enjoyable and beneficial.

Another street row is reported from Peking on the 26th ult. It appears that in Legation Street a German marine was fired at and wounded in the leg by an American sentry, as the result of obstreperous behaviour on the part of the German soldier.

Secretary Long has cabled instructions from Washington to Admiral Remy authorising him to enlist five hundred Filipinos, principally for service as firemen and coal-passers on the small gunboats which are now doing river and coast service in the Philippines. The employment of natives, who are better able to withstand the tropical climate and the increased temperature of the fire rooms, will relieve the American stokers who have frequently become disabled and had to be invalided to the Naval Hospital at Yokohama.

A New York despatch, dated the 27th April, says:—Captain J. F. Merry, who was President of the Naval Board which went to Guam to select a site for a naval station, and to prepare a plan for the improvement of the harbour and the location of a town on its shores, is on his way back to his station at Honolulu, and will submit his report from that point. As soon as possible after his return he will enter into negotiations with the owners of land at Pearl Harbour for its sale to the United States. The recent naval appropriation law appropriated \$150,000 for the purchase of land.

The Commander of a certain foreign ship and a naval doctor of the same ship, who had been taking photographs in the port of Nagasaki, were sentenced to imprisonment for six months each by default at the Nagasaki Chiho Saibansho, and warrants for their arrest have been issued. This is the first occasion on which foreigners of importance have been sentenced to imprisonment in Nagasaki since the new treaty came into force, and the foreign Consuls are reported to be watching developments. It is stated that the vessel with the accused will arrive in Nagasaki shortly. The *Kobe Herald* learns that the vessel in question is not a warship, but a vessel of the Russian volunteer fleet.

The Rev. Timothy Richard has arrived, writes a Peking correspondent of the *Mercury* on the 20th ult., and is negotiating with the Plenipotentiaries. "For the present he will not go to Shansi. It is possible to conduct indemnity negotiations with advantage in Peking. The common desire of the missionary boards is to make careful estimates, neither above nor below the actual value of the burnt property, but the price of building materials is much higher than it was when the burnt houses were erected. This will necessarily tend to raise somewhat the amount of the indemnity claims. The universal feeling among the missionaries is to deal fairly with the Chinese Government." Mr. Richard has wired to Mr. J. W. Stevenson, Director of the China Inland Mission, that the Shansi Governor has given Tls. 40,000 for the benefit of the native Protestants, and that an escort has been provided by the Governor for a party to proceed to Shansi.

COMMERCIAL.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	939,523	417,641
Kobe	—	—
	939,523	417,641

SILK.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1900-1901	1899-00
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	53,002	67,638
Yokohama	26,726	18,976
	79,728	86,614

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1900-1901	1899-00
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	10,047	19,360
Yokohama	31,522	32,286
	41,569	51,646

CAMPOR.

HONGKONG, 31st May.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 31st May.—The prices are declining, market being weak. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.80 to \$8.85 pol.
do. " 2, White.....	7.95 to 8.00 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ...	5.80 to 5.85 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.75 to 5.80 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.70 to 8.75 "
do. " 1, White.....	7.85 to 7.90 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ...	5.75 to 5.80 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.60 to 5.65 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	13.45 to 13.50 "
Shekloong "	12.75 to 12.80 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 31st May.—No demands having come from the mainland, the prices are going downward. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.40 to 2.45
" Round, Good quality	3.45 to 3.50
" Long	3.55 to 3.60
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.50 to 2.55
" Garden, " No. 1	3.30 to 3.35
" White.....	3.80 to 3.85
" Fine Cargo	4.20 to 4.25

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORT.

Per steamer *Ferdene* sailed on the 11th May. For New York:—243 cases blackwood ware, 470 boxes Chinaware, 1,594 pkgs. merchandise.

Per steamer *Antenor*, sailed on the 14th May. For London:—Tea 895 boxes (particulars unknown), 101 bales canes, 55 bales waste silk, 546 bags copper ore, 101 cases shell, 54 cases Chinaware, 6 cases blackwoodware, 20 cases essential oil, 2 cases ginger, 1 case cigars, 10 pkgs. sundries. For London opt. Hamburg:—284 bales canes. For Hamburg:—7 cases shell.

Per Imperial German Mail steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, sailed on the 15th May. For Aden:—10 bundles cassia. For Odessa:—45 bales canes, 25 rolls matting. For Trieste:—100 bales rattanshavings, 5 cases staranised oil. For Genoa:—241 bales raw silk, 151 rolls matting, 6 cases blackwood. For New York:—5 boxes silkpiecgoods. For Antwerp:—21 bales feathers, 14 rolls matting. For Antwerp and/or Hamburg and/or London:—92 bales feathers. For Amsterdam:—20 cases tea stick, 8 bales bamboo, 7 cases Chinaware, 3 cases ginger. For Amsterdam and/or Rotterdam:—3 pkgs. camphorwood, 3 pkgs. samples. For Rotterdam:—3 boxes Chinaware. For Baltimore:—2 boxes Chinaware. For Bremen:—58 bales canes, 47 rolls matting. For Hamburg:—50 boxes cassia-buds, 20 bales canes, 18 bales feathers, 17 boxes Chinaware, 13 boxes blackwoodware, 10 cases vermillion, 10 cases essential oil. For London:—3 boxes silk.

Per steamer *Indus*, sailed on the 20th May. For Marseilles:—195 bales raw silk, 170 bales waste silk, 17 cases silks. For Lyons:—493 bales raw silk. For Milan:—15 bales raw silk. For London:—3 cases silks, 6 cases preserves.

Per P. & O. steamer *Bengal*, sailed on the 25th May. For London opt. Goole:—300 bales waste silk. For London:—2,857 pkgs. tea from Foochow. 225 boxes tea from Macao, 438 rolls mats, 10 bales raw silk, 18 cases Chinaware, 2 cases silks, 6 cases cigars, 1 case cuffs, 1 case grass cloth. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For Rosario:—200 pkgs. tea. For Copenhagen:—100 b/cheats tea from Foochow. For Lyons:—605 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—198 bales raw silk, 1 case curios.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 31st May.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 25 bales No. 8 at \$78.50, 1,750 bales No. 10 at \$77.50 to \$86, 650 bales No. 12 at \$82.50 to \$89, 450 bales No. 16 at \$93.50 to \$97.50, 1,450 bales No. 20 at \$96 to \$107.50. White Shirtings: 250 pieces D 70 at \$4, 250 pieces No. 300 at \$3.90, 250 pieces Gold Elephant at \$4.30, 1,000 pieces No. 600 at \$4.90, 500 pieces Gold Goose at \$4.70, 500 pieces No. 600 and at \$4.85, 2,000 pieces S. Q. at \$4.75. Grey Shirtings: 1,200 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Peach at \$3.20, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Punch at \$3.15, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Plans and Sword at \$3.20. METALS.—Nail Rod Iron: 4,000 bundles 1 x 6 at \$4.35. Leads: 500 piculs new-mark at \$8.35.

COTTON YARN—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$75.00 to \$108.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.00 to 2.10
7 lbs.	2.15 to 2.30
8.4 lbs.	2.60 to 3.25
9 to 10 lbs.	3.30 to 4.40
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.30 to 2.50
58 to 60 "	3.00 to 3.75
64 to 66 "	4.00 to 5.30
Fine.....	5.00 to 7.40
Book-folds.....	4.00 to 6.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.73 to 1.20
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.60 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 ") ..	1.80 to 2.05
6lbs. (32 ") , Mexs.	1.80 to 2.00
7lbs. (32 ") ..	2.65 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.).....	2.70 to 3.20
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs.	4.00 to 6.75

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	1.55 to 5.00
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Brocades—Dyed

	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22½ to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in.	0.20 to 0.22½

	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.36 to 2.50

WOOLENS—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 2.50

Long Ells—Scarlet.....

Assorted.....	6.50 to 10.10
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Camlets—Assorted.....

Assorted.....	12.50 to 32.00
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Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches (Assorted)

Assorted.....	8.00 to 20.00
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Orleans—Plain

Assorted.....	8.50 to 10.00
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Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.

Assorted.....	4.00 to 18.00
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METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod

Assorted.....	4.45 to —
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Square Flat Round Bar (Eng.)

Assorted.....	4.45 to —
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Swedish Bar

Assorted.....	6.75 to —
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Small Round Rod

Assorted.....	4.65 to —
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Hoop ½ to 1½ in.

Assorted.....	5.25 to —
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Wire 15/25

Assorted.....	8.00 to —
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Old Wire Rope.....

Assorted.....	2.50 to —
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Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop

Assorted.....	8.50 to —
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Australian

Assorted.....	8.25 to —
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Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.

Assorted.....	41.00 to —
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Vivian's 14/20 oz.

Assorted.....	40.50 to —
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Elliot's 14/20 oz.

Assorted.....	40.25 to —
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New Chops 14/20 oz.

Assorted.....	— to —
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Composition Nails.....

Assorted.....	63.00 to —
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Japan Copper, Slabs.....

Assorted.....	42.00 to —
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Tin.....

Assorted.....	68.50 to —
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Tin-Plates

Assorted.....	6.90 to —
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Steel ½ to 1

Assorted.....	6.25 to —
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CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

SATURDAY, 1st June.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.46½
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.51

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	2.00½
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	49½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	146½
Bank, on demand	147½

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	146½
Bank, on demand	147½

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	3½ p.c. pm.
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	2½ p.c. pm.
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	1 p.c. pm.
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ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	117½
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ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand.....	2½
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ON SAIGON.—

On demand	2½
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ON BANGKOK.—

On demand	59½
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate

Gold Leaf, 100 fine, per tael	52.25
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BAR SILVER per oz.

Assorted.....	27½
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SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 31st May.—Our last report was dated the 23rd instant. During the interval, business has been interfered with by the Whit-sun-tide holidays, but since the market re-opened a fair general demand has been met with, and rates have been well maintained, with a tendency to advance in some of the principal lines.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been sold in small lots at 377 per cent. premium, but, on further orders being received at the rate, sellers withdrew, and the market closes steady to firm at 380 per cent. premium. The London rate is unchanged at £61. 10s. 0d. Nationals continue in request at quotations.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been sold at \$340, and more shares might be placed at the rate. China Traders are on offer at \$160. North Chinas are wanted at Tls. 180. Yang-tzes have been sold, and have further sellers at \$120. Cantons continue on offer at \$180.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have been sold, and small lots may still be had at \$355. China Fires are quiet at \$87½ with sellers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been sold at \$34½, and more shares are obtainable at the rate. A small lot of 50 shares is in the market at \$34. Indo-Chinas have been placed at varying rates between \$133 and \$136, the market closing quiet at the former quotation with possible sellers. China-Manilas are quiet at \$62 and \$52 for the old and new shares respectively. Douglases have been placed at \$53. Star Ferries (old) are salable at \$22½ ex dividend, and the new shares have been placed at \$9 ex dividend. Shell Transports are to be had at £31. 0s. 0d.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been sold at \$135, and more shares are to be had at the rate. Luzons are unchanged with sellers at \$33. MINING.—Punjoms close without feature at last week's quotations. Charbonnages have receded, and are quiet at \$325. Queen Mines have been sold and have further sellers at 6 cents. Raubs have been sold at prices ranging up to \$23, but are now to be had at \$21.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have continued in request during the interval, and the rate for cash shares has risen steadily to \$325, at which the market closes firm. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharfs have been placed at \$104 and \$105, and are wanted at the higher figure. Wanchais, since the sale of the Company's property as reported in the public press are purely nominal. New Amoy Docks are quiet at \$22½.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have sold at steadily rising rates to \$200 cash. A small sale has been effected to-day at \$199, and there are further buyers at this figure, with no shares on offer at the moment. Kowloon Lands are in the market and weak at \$30. West Points have been sold at \$56, and can still be had at that figure. Hongkong Hotels are quiet with probable sellers at \$128. Orientes are to be had at \$180. Humphreys Estates have sold at \$14 and \$13½, and are still to be had at the lower rate.

COTTON MILLS.—No changes to report under this head.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cement have declined to \$19, at which there are sellers. Hongkong Ropes have improved to \$160 at which further shares are wanted. Steam Water Boats are in request at \$7½. United Asbestos have improved, and are inquired for at \$12. Providents are in demand at \$9½. Watkins are quiet and without business at \$9½. Other stocks under this head are unchanged.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		{ 380 p. ct. prm. = \$600.
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	{ L'don, £61. 10s.
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£28	\$27, buyers
B. Shares	£28	\$27, buyers
Foun. Shares...	£21	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	£21	\$1.10.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20.
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$38, sellers
China Light & Power } Co., Ltd.	\$20	20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M....	\$10	\$9½, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$135, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra, Limited..	\$500	\$1,500, buyers
La Commercial, Ltd..	\$500	\$1,000, buyers
Hensiana, Limited...	\$100	\$100, buyers
La Favorita, Ltd. ...	\$500	\$750, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 50, buyers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 55.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 325.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 25.
Hongkong	\$100	\$74, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$7½, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$55, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$19, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$135, buyers
Hongkong Electric {	\$10	\$12½, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$5	\$6½, buyers
Hk. Steam Water { boat Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$7½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$128.
Hongkong Ice.....	\$25	\$175, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$105, buyers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$160, sales & buys.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$325, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$180, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$67½, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$60, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$355.
North China	£25	Tls. 180, buyers
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$340, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$120, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$199, buyers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$14½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sales & sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$56, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$38, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$325.
Jelebu	\$5	\$5.20, sellers
Queen's Mines, Ltd...	25c.	6 cents, sellers
Olivers Mines, A....	\$5	\$1½, sellers
Do. B....	\$4½	\$1½, sellers
Punjom	\$9	\$7½, sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.25.
Raubs	18	\$21, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$22½.
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$80, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$62, sales
China Mutual Pref.	£10	£12.
China Ordinary	£10	£12.
Do.	£5	£7.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$53.
H., Canton and M....	\$15	\$34, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$133.
Shell Transport and } Trading Co.	£1	£3, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	{ \$22½, s.d., buyers
Tebrun Planting Co....	\$5	{ \$9, ex div., sales
United Asbestos	\$4	\$12, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$20.
Wanchai Warehouse...	\$37½	nominal.
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$9½.
Watson & Co., J. S. ...	\$10	\$16½, sellers
Universal Trading { Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$19½, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 22nd May (From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.) BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares were placed locally at 37½ per cent prem. and the market closes quiet. INSURANCE.—Marine—North-